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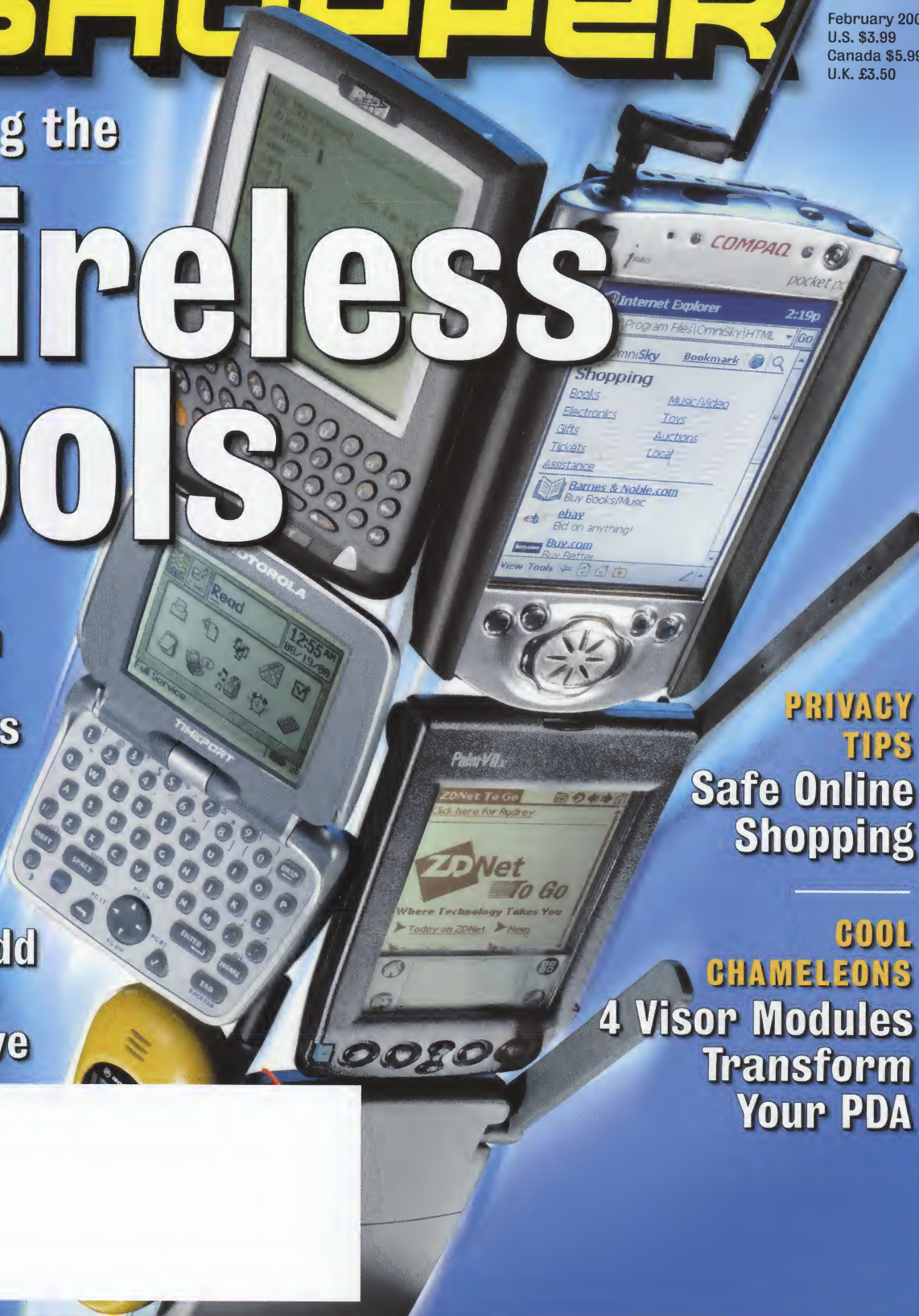
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Figure 1. *Salmonella* serotypes.

processors, fans and memory

processors, far

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- 12% of all computer-related losses occur as a result of power surges.*
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*According to the
1999 Safeware Loss Study.

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Are you sure you're insured?

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by Asa Somers

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by Lori Grunin, Bruce Brown, Marge Brown, and Jay Munro

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JANICE CHEN



The Wireless Way

The year has barely begun, and the industry has already latched onto its buzzword for 2001: wireless. Everywhere you turn—newspapers, magazines, television, even the sides of city buses—you'll encounter debate about wireless. Some say this is the year the wireless Web will find its killer app; others believe it's not ready for prime time and won't be for years.

One thing's certain: Whether they're connected PDAs, Web-enabled phones, two-way pagers, or other mobile devices, wireless tools have arrived. Of course, each type has its drawbacks. For instance, tiny screens on Web phones have naysayers screaming "over-hyped, under-delivered!" But for those who can navigate the shortcomings and find the information they want, wireless access can be close to miraculous.

We'll help you sort through the hype and find the tools that match your personal style and needs in our first Shoppers' Guide to Wireless Web Devices on p. 134. Here you'll find the straight story on the pros and cons of each type of device, with information that will help you choose the best fit.



and obvious value. (Remember what the skeptics said about e-commerce before Amazon.com?) For a glimpse at what that killer app might be, turn to p. 24 of our Net Now section, where Executive Editor Rik Fairlie reports on how voice capabilities may shape next year's wireless wonders.

Whether you're surfing the Web from your desktop or cruising with an untethered connection, our goal is to make your wade through the Web easier. Last month I noted how we've leveraged our relationship with

ZDNet to offer features no other magazine can provide, such as our Price It! service (our very own wireless-enabled application). And with this issue, we've

merged our editors' picks awards with those on ZDNet Reviews. Now the Best Buys are chosen by even more experts—both *Computer Shopper* and ZDNet editors—who've had hands-on experience with the products, yielding expanded comparisons among a greater selection of products.

And to help you cut the Web's technology-buying clutter, we've launched three online "hubs" as companion sites to stories in the magazine. You'll find pointers to these hubs at the bottom of our featured product roundups, stand-alone reviews, Help & How-To stories, and articles with related downloads. The Reviews hub provides expanded coverage for every review, including additional specs and benchmarks, end-user ratings, and links to real-time pricing and buying sites. The Help hub expands on our Help & How-To section with related articles and utilities to help you repair, update, and upgrade your system. The Downloads hub offers a central place to access every download in the magazine—and to dig up more. Check them out at computershopper.zdnet.com/reviews, [/help](http://computershopper.zdnet.com/help), or [/downloads](http://computershopper.zdnet.com/downloads).

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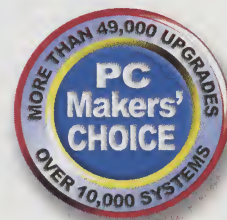
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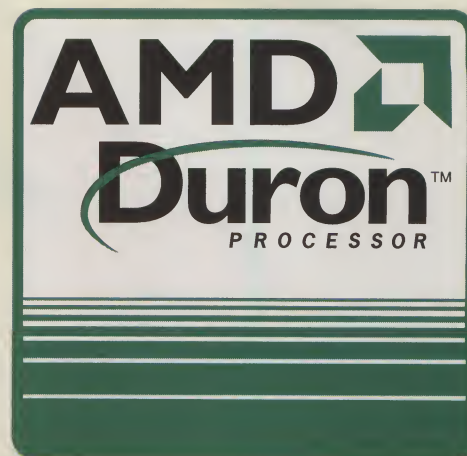
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FEEDBACK FORUM

A WORTHWHILE UPGRADE?

Regarding Bill O'Brien's "Put Some Pep in Your Old PC" (December 2000, p. 97), my first thought is that while the Evergreen Performa600 might be a worthwhile CPU upgrade, it certainly isn't one for which I would purchase a new motherboard. For that money, you can get a 900MHz Athlon and a top-of-the-line motherboard. If I can't pop the Evergreen into the motherboard I currently own, why bother?

H. J. FINKEL

DON'T PROMOTE SPAM

I was disappointed with the article "Boost Traffic With Online Contests" (December, p. 214) because at one point it states, "Contests only work if people know about them. Use a combination of press releases, banner advertising, and e-mail campaigns to promote your contest or sweepstakes." Statements such as this in a well-respected publication only reinforce the belief that spam is acceptable.

It's one thing to ask customers to join a mailing list for future contests when they arrive at your site, and then notify them via

boost traffic with online contests

Done right, an online contest or sweepstakes can draw visitors to your site and keep them coming back.

Doing it right, it's a matter of using the right strategy. While a contest or sweepstakes can be a great way to boost traffic, it's not a magic bullet. You need to have a plan, and you need to execute it properly. This means creating a contest that is interesting and valuable to your audience, and promoting it effectively. You also need to have a budget, and you need to know when to stop. If you do these things right, an online contest or sweepstakes can be a great way to boost traffic and keep your visitors coming back.

e-mail when a new contest has begun. But this article doesn't make it clear that the recipients of these "e-mail campaigns" should be customers with whom you have an existing business relationship, and not simply the names of millions of Internet users unfortunate enough to have their e-mail addresses appear on someone's resold spam list.

E-mail requires bandwidth and the use of Internet servers, neither of which is free. Sending spam e-mail is essentially free to the sender, but costs the entire Internet community in terms of resource usage, which someone ultimately has to pay for.

VINNIE MURDICO

< COMING NEXT MONTH >

Towers of Power



Between Intel's unleashing of its Pentium 4 processor and the union of AMD's Athlon CPU with DDR memory, PC speed has shifted into overdrive. What are the real performance differences between these technologies? Our March roundup clocks five new Intel and AMD speed demons to bring you the answer.

Tax Tools



The taxman cometh, but you don't have to sweat this yearly form-filling ritual. We compare the latest packages to help you take the tension out of tax season.

Have Tunes, Will Travel



You've downloaded the hippest collection of MP3 files, and you want them with you wherever you go. Plenty of portable players can carry your tunes, but our guide will help you decide which one's worthy of your digital ditties.

CONSIDER THE CONSUMABLES



In December's "Buying Advisor" column (p. 262), Asa Somers discussed the cost of printer consumables. One significant fact he should have included is percent coverage—that is, the percentage of the page covered with ink.

The computed cost per copy should take into account the level of density the customer expects to generate. In other words, for the Epson Stylus Color 870, the cost per printout is around 16 cents at the manufacturer's assumed percent coverage—around 3 percent. Obviously, the manufacturer's yield assumes a minimal density of ink coverage. But a report cover with a color photograph could easily measure 27 percent

coverage, with the relative cost increasing ninefold, to about \$1.44 per copy.

Perhaps a follow-up in the future will bring this information to your readers. Otherwise, the column was well-documented and timely.

CHUCK KOVACS

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Pentium 4: Do You Really Need the Speed?

Intel Corp.'s Pentium 4 blasted off late last year with blow-your-hair-back speeds of 1.4GHz and 1.5GHz, but marketing systems powered by this hot-rod chip may prove to be slow going. That's because performance tests have shown no real benefits for average users, while systems based on other processors offer better pricing.

PC benchmarks show that, despite its souped-up clock speed, the Pentium 4 performs on par with rival Advanced Micro Devices' 1.2GHz Athlon and, in some cases, even the Intel Pentium III.

Much like a race-car engine tuned to deliver high-rpm performance at slow speeds, the Pentium 4 doesn't show much gain on everyday applications. In fact, a 1.2GHz Athlon is often as fast as or faster than the Pentium 4 in many desktop apps or 2D-based benchmarks.

But other tests reveal that

Intel's 1.5GHz Pentium 4 serves up superior performance in several areas, including 3D-graphics-intensive tasks such as Quake III and video encoding. ZDNet Labs' Video Encoding Tests showed the Pentium 4 encoding a video clip in about a

its 1.13GHz Pentium III will pack plenty of power.

And those who don't work with advanced applications would be equally at home with a 1.2GHz Athlon—especially if they're on a budget.

Pentium 4 PCs, such as Dell Computer Corp.'s 1.4GHz Dimension 8100, start at about \$1,899, and offerings from vendors such as Hewlett-Packard Co. and IBM start at several hundred dollars more. A fully loaded 1.5GHz

Pentium 4 PC can easily top \$3,000.

Alternately, AMD's newest 1.2GHz Athlon platform can deliver a lot of muscle for a little less money. Consumers should be able to pick up a new PC, based on the new AMD 760 chipset, with a 266MHz front-side bus and DDR SDRAM, for prices starting at \$1,800.

—John G. Spooner



A P4-powered Dell Dimension

minute, nearly twice as fast as an Athlon. The Pentium 4 achieves this via an enhanced set of multimedia instructions.

But when it comes to everyday programs such as business applications, Web browsing, and e-mail, the Pentium 4 demonstrates no discernable advantage. In fact, Intel officials admit that, for the average user,

and delivery people can use a PIN code to open the container and deposit packages. If you need to return a product, you can even leave it in the zBox and schedule a pickup.

The zBox's "smart" technology makes secure deliveries a snap. A keypad on the plastic box generates a new code for each delivery, while allowing the owner to maintain a single PIN. As further enticement, zBox will reimburse zBox Plan members' shipping costs for purchases of more than \$25 at



zBox for deliveries

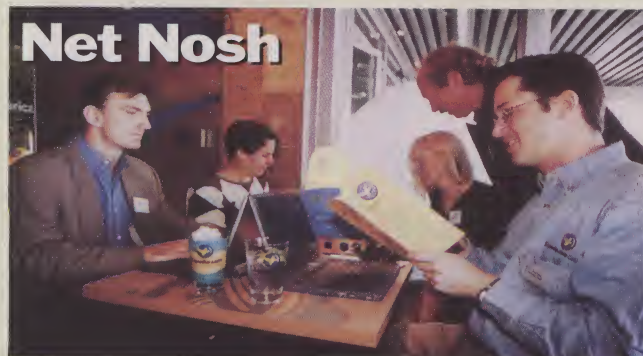
a number of retailers (including Borders.com, Lands' End, and OfficeMax) for the first 60 days of membership.

If that appeals to you, you're in good company. During beta trials, zBox found that consumers using the zBox increased their online and catalog shopping volume by 700 percent over the same period a year before.

The company plans to officially launch the product nationwide this quarter. The box itself is free, and the zBox Plan is available at an introductory rate of \$5 per month.

Tina Shah, chief executive and co-founder, anticipates a positive response. "It's a problem that people have lived with for a long time," she says. "We're serving a core need."

—Kiersten Conner-Sax



Net Nosh
Good news for travelers looking to log in and lunch at the same time: Travel supersite Expedia.com has opened its first Expedia Café, at the San Jose International Airport. While the eatery offers no free lunch, there's no cost for Internet access. All you need is a notebook and a need to nosh.

Get the Goods

Shopping online or by catalog is undeniably convenient—unless you *don't* happen to have a butler to handle deliveries from the post office, UPS, and Federal Express.

The zBox, a new product from zBox Co., can eliminate extra trips to the post office and extra days spent waiting for redelivery. Place the 24x21x32-inch box outside your home,

NET
NOW

GET YOUR MOJO WORKING

Napster? Now that Bertelsmann has invested, they're in league with the Germans. Gnutella? Gnot going to work. Where's the fan of peer-to-peer communications to turn?

Mojo, baby.

That's right. Mojo Nation is the new open-source software product from **Evil Geniuses for a Better Tomorrow**, a company headed by Jim McCoy, one of the engineers behind Yahoo Mail. McCoy has described the new file-sharing network as a



cross between Napster and eBay: Users trade files such as software, MP3s, or movie clips by earning and spending "Mojo," the currency of the new virtual realm.

Mojo Nation users pay Mojo for file transfers. Because users can earn Mojo by providing disk space or processing power

to the Mojo Nation network, they are inspired to serve up files on their local machines. Files are broken up and encrypted for easier storage—and to avoid legal wrangles.

Down the line, Evil Geniuses hopes to provide a method for users to "tip" a file's creator for its content. For

instance, a user could provide a small payment to a musician in exchange for downloading his or her work.

With all the free MP3 files in circulation, it remains to be seen whether fans will put their money where the music is. But McCoy is optimistic that creating a system that makes it easy

and possible for users to do the right thing will make them more likely to do so.

So how will Mojo avoid the legal and technological problems that threaten Napster and Gnutella? Napster, by serving files centrally, incurs legal liabilities; Gnutella, as a true peer-to-peer network, suffers from the "free rider" problem of too many people downloading files and too few people serving them up. McCoy says Mojo does not violate copyright laws and avoids Gnutella's bandwidth logjams by breaking up files into thousands of tiny pieces.

The Mojo Nation agent is available as a free download from www.mojonation.net.

—Kiersten Conner-Sax

Sharing the Groove

Home users have Mojo to share files, but corporate networks can get in on the Groove to take advantage of peer-to-peer computing.

Groove Networks, a company headed by Lotus Notes creator Ray Ozzie, has created an application that provides robust file-sharing and collaboration capabilities for businesses. Downloadable from www.groove.net, Groove's Transceiver application enables users to chat, share files, collaborate on documents and projects in real time or individually, and surf the Web together.

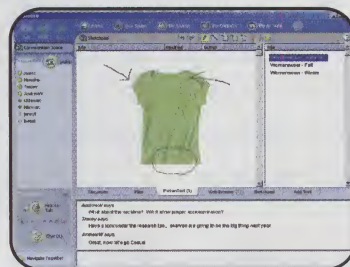
Data resides on the users' hard drives, and only invited members have access to the shared information. When offline members log on, Groove syncs any changes from the last session, and checks for messages and online group members.

Andrew Mahon, Groove's director of strategic marketing, hopes that companies will use Groove's Transceiver to bring together users interested in specific topics. For instance, a

financial-services Web site might employ Transceiver to share sensitive investment information between investors and their portfolio managers during a meeting.

Additionally, Mahon sees Transceiver as a powerful application for easily coordinating projects across businesses without compromising security. What's more, the application is designed for easy integration

with most back-end and front-end systems.



It's groovy: Web-based collaboration.

This ease suggests enormous potential for a business-coordination platform, says Navi Radjou, an analyst at Forrester Research. "It could shake up the entire server software market," he says. But he also notes that the technology might face a challenge in rapidly gaining partnerships with system integrators and third-party software vendors.

—Adam Fisher

A STAR IS BORN



As any new parent will tell you, some of the best bonuses accompanying that little bundle of joy are the bragging rights. And a new service, **BabyPressConference.com** (www.babypressconference.com), aims to make the boasting easy—and interactive—by introducing the new arrival to friends and family anywhere in the world via a live, private Netcast from the hospital.

The free service, conceived by **GNHYHA Ventures**, is available in 53 U.S. hospitals, with an additional 60 installations on the way.

Expectant parents register with the site and are asked to create an e-mail guest list of friends and family. After the baby is born, the parents schedule a time for a Netcast in the

hospital's Internet broadcast center (a private kiosk with a computer and a Webcam). Each guest receives an e-mail invitation with instructions advising them when to log on for a live interactive session starring the new baby (with parents as supporting cast, of course).

Invitees can communicate with parents by typing questions and hearing and watching the responses in full-motion streaming video. Parents also can create a

private family Web page with "baby-centric" features such as child-care info, event planning, baby-gift-shopping links, a due-date countdown, a private chat room, and a bulletin board to post the latest pregnancy news or ultrasound photos.

—Wendy Sheehan



Newborns take to the Net.

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 21

Computer Shopper • FEBRUARY 2001

15

Go from headline to online

to get the technology information you need!

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Computer Shopper magazine has launched online "hubs" to help our readers cut the technology information clutter. The magazine's featured articles and reviews now include highlighted pointers to these online information hubs—three unique areas with supplemental information on Reviews, Help, and Downloads.

For related information on the topic you've just read, simply enter the corresponding hub URL. You'll find detailed complementary information such as extended story coverage, in-depth product specifications and product-review comparisons, plus related news and tips.



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A large red swoosh frames a collage of images. In the foreground, a woman in a white CDW polo shirt stands next to a computer monitor displaying 'www.cdw.com'. In front of the monitor are boxes of SYMANTEC and TOSHIBA products. In the background, several office workers are shown in a busy environment, some at computers and others handling equipment.

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
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
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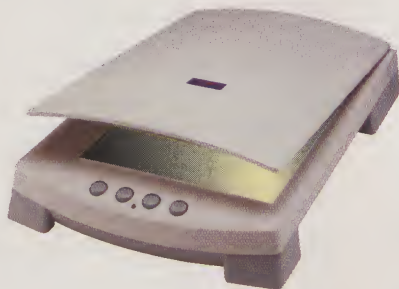
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NET
NOW

SCREENING TEEN SPENDING

Scared to send your teenagers to the mall with a fistful of cash? That fear could be justified. After all, they may tell you they're off to catch the latest Adam Sandler movie, while they're actually chasing down a pitcher of frozen margaritas with their friends.

If you have such concerns, consider new Web-based debit cards from **PocketCard** and **M2card**. The cards can be issued to those 13 and older and used anywhere Visa is accepted. They are treated as credit cards

for point-of-sale purchases, requiring a signature, and as debit cards at an ATM, requiring a PIN.

Parents can visit the cards' Web sites and transfer up to \$250 per day to a designated spender from a linked checking account. (Credit-card transactions should be available soon.) Teens can't spend more than the amount transferred to the cards.

The PocketCard costs \$15 per year for an account with one spender, plus a 25-cent fee every time money is transferred or the card is used. The M2card



Parents get immediate e-mail reports on purchases.

doesn't levy any fees and provides a rewards program, but its Web site is a bit frenetic.

The beauty—or the catch, depending on your point of

view—is that parents receive a detailed report of their teen's purchases. When creating the account, parents specify an e-mail address to which messages are sent when the card is used, allowing them almost instant review of purchases, often including amount spent and specific items purchased by location. That means you just might be able to descend upon Johnny before he gets too friendly with Jose Cuervo. Ferreting out his fake ID is up to you.

—Kiersten Conner-Sax

BUY IT BY BAR CODE

The capability to browse offline and buy online just got easier, thanks to new barcode readers such as the Qoder.

The \$39.95 wireless device, developed by a company called **Qode** (www.qode.com), stores up to 100 UPC codes, which can deliver via a Web link a wealth of info about the product, its maker, and its sellers. Qode says

works. Say you're window-shopping and spot a snazzy green sweater. Can't decide whether to buy it? Simply scan its UPC code with your Qoder, and continue shopping (and scanning).

When you get home, link the device to your PC by dropping the reader into its docking station. Instantly you are taken to the Qode home page and are presented with detailed data on any products you scanned, including manufacturer discounts and prices from both online and offline vendors. The site enables you to store this information on customized pages for later reference and purchase.

Using the Qoder requires only a username and password, although you must provide your ZIP code to find the nearest retailer. Better yet, the Qoder is fast, according to chief executive Mike Miller. He says gathering product information on scanned items takes the Qoder only seconds, while you could spend the better part of a day searching for the best prices on 100 items.

—Adam Fisher



Scan UPC codes on up to 100 products with the Qoder.

it has accumulated information on more than 100 million UPC codes. The company has signed 3,000 retailers, and provides store addresses, maps, and company information, as well as information on special offers.

Here's how the Qoder

Get Scanned and Go Shopping

Finding a comfortable fit is all but guaranteed for **Lands' End** shoppers who use **ImageTwin's** 3D Personal Body Scanning. That's because the technology enables men and women to have their body dimensions scanned, then hop online and use the My Virtual Model software at Lands' End's Web site (www.landsend.com) to create a fit accurate up to an eighth of an inch.

ImageTwin, which will charge shoppers a small fee for the scanning, plans to place 50 scanners in major markets, including New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Lands' End introduced the technology during its 14-city My Virtual Model Body Scanning Truck Tour this past fall.

To get scanned, you step into an ImageTwin booth while wearing form-fitting athletic wear, standing for 12 seconds as sinusoidal patterns of white light flash onto you. Out of the 200,000 data points scanned, 12 body measurements are sent to

your account at Lands' End.

This level of accuracy should ease concerns about buying without trying on, says Tim Henson, ImageTwin's executive vice president of sales and business development.

"Most shopping carts are abandoned because customers aren't comfortable," says Henson. "The number-one problem with buying apparel on the Internet is whether it will fit."

Though at press time Lands' End was the only e-tailer offering the ImageTwin-

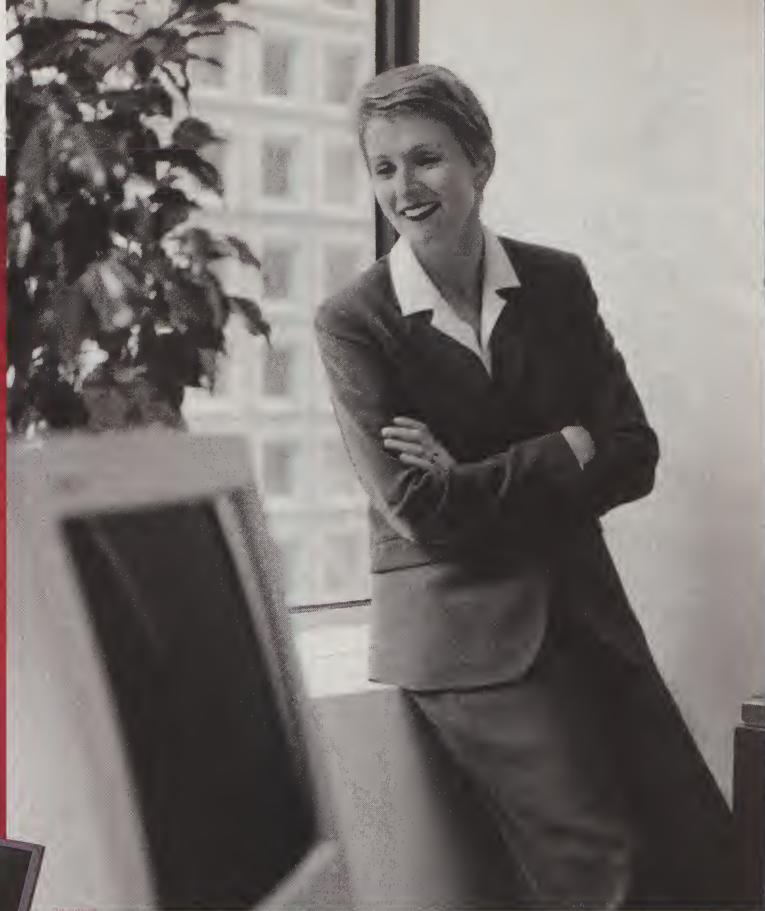
enabled version of My Virtual Model, ImageTwin plans to have additional online apparel vendors such as JCPenney support the body-scanning technology in the first quarter of this year.

Lands' End also recently introduced its My Virtual Model for men last October, and plans to add virtual models for kids later this year.

—Brian T. Horowitz



Body scanning enables clothing fits that are incredibly accurate.



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Compaq recommends Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional for business.

*Prices shown are Compaq prices; reseller and retailer prices may vary. E500 pricing is promotional pricing. Prices shown are subject to change and do not include applicable state and local sales tax or shipping to recipient's destination. **Customers choose one operating system upon initial installation; thereby forfeiting license and rights to the other OS. †Implicit interest rate, assuming lessee does not exercise a fair market value purchase option at the end of the lease term and timely returns leased equipment to Compaq Financial Services Corporation (CFSC) at the end of the lease term. This offer cannot be combined with any other Compaq programs or discounts without the prior approval of CFSC. [Low rates on leases with \$1 end of lease term purchase options also are available.] Offer valid through March 31, 2001. ‡Compaq Financial Services: Financing available through Compaq Financial Services Corporation (CFSC) to qualified commercial customers in the U.S. Financing is subject to credit approval and execution of CFSC documentation. Monthly payments are based on a 48-month Fair Market Value lease, and do not include taxes, fees, or shipping charges. Other fees and restrictions may apply and CFSC reserves the right to change or cancel this program at any time without notice. †For hard drives, GB=billion bytes. ‡24X Max CD-ROM data transfer rates may vary from 150 to 3600 KB/s, 40X Max rates vary

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QuickAccess Code: 37X1X8-17X59

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Business-boosting upgrades:

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ProLiant ML350 Server \$1899*

Lease for: \$54/month¹

QuickAccess Code: 37X1X8-16562

Intel Pentium III processor 866MHz
9.1GB Ultra2 hard drive²
128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (exp. to 2GB³)
Dual processor capable
Dual Wide-Ultra2 SCSI controller
8 Bays: 4 removable, 4 hard drive
40X Max CD-ROM drive³
10/100 TX UTP NIC (WoL)
7 Slots: 2 64-bit PCI, 4 32-bit PCI, 1 ISA
Server setup and management software
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NET
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The Unforeseeable Future of Wireless

Will next year's wireless wonders be Web-connected PDAs, souped-up Net phones, or a über-gadget that fuses both? No one knows for sure, not even the executives running the companies likely to market these devices. But several participants at a recent panel on future mobile gadgets agreed on one point: if there is to be one "killer app" in the wireless world, it will be from your mouth.

"The mobile phone is good technology, but voice is great technology," says William Maggs, chief technology officer for **Palm**. Not surprisingly, he predicts the PDA will take on many of the functions of the cell phone. "Phones will continue to evolve, but over time people will want phones that can handle instant messaging and unified messaging," he says. "We think the Palm will be on top of that."

The vision of the future is not so clear to Tim Eckersley, senior vice president of **Nokia Networks North America**. He sees a segmentation between voice- and data-centric platforms—and

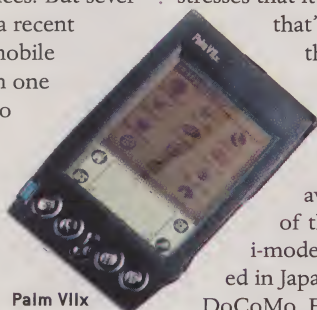
those who use them. "There won't be one killer app, except for voice and [Internet] access," he says.

Mike Lazaridis, president of wireless-solutions provider **Research In Motion**, also stresses that it's the application that's compelling to the consumer, not the underlying technology. As an example, he cites the runaway success of the wireless i-mode service marketed in Japan by NTT

DoCoMo. Even though the throughput of this mobile technology tops out at just 9.6Kbps, the application has attracted more than 15 million users in roughly two years.

Whether data or voice prevail in the app war, great ergonomics is the weapon that will win the battle for the indispensable device, says Patrick McVeigh, chief executive of **OmniSky Corp.** "After that, it's up to the service providers to put the right services on the right platforms," he adds.

Walter S. Mossberg, technology columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*, suggests that the VisorPhone, a module that plugs into the

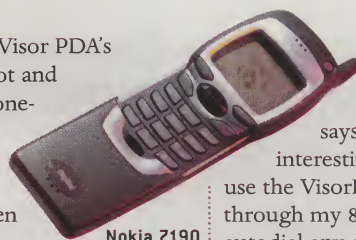


Palm VIIx



VisorPhone

Handspring Visor PDA's expansion slot and creates a phone-PDA hybrid, may be just such a product. "I've been carrying my whole world of contacts and



Nokia 7190

calendars on my Palm for years," Mossberg says. "And it's quite an interesting experience to use the VisorPhone and go through my 800 contacts and autodial any of them."

—Rik Fairlie

SideStep, Easy Step

Finding and booking a low airfare on the Internet has taken a bold leap with the debut of **SideStep**, a browser plug-in that is the fastest and simplest fare finder we've ever seen.

Better yet, while other booking engines overlook smaller airlines like JetBlue and AirTran, SideStep includes them all: 26 U.S. airlines, in addition to 54 hotel chains and nine car-rental companies. And while other sites won't fetch Web-only cyber-fares, SideStep does so handily.

The plug-in manages this by checking fares stored on the airlines' own computers, rather than scouring the huge databases of all airline fares that travel agencies use. And it shows only flights that are available for booking, unlike many other travel supersites, says Brian Barth, chief executive.

How well does it work?

Quite well, based on a recent test. Asked to find a low fare between Boston and St. Louis, it rightly listed a weekend-only "Fan Fare" on Delta Airlines for \$138 as the best choice. Asked to find a low fare between Orlando and Gary, Ind., it iden-



Find a fast fare to paradise.

tified a Pan Am fare as lowest, while travel supersite **Travelocity** wrongly insisted that no airline flew the route.

Choose to book the fare, and you are taken directly to the airline's Web site, with your travel dates and city pair preserved and ready to snap up.

SideStep isn't infallible, however. In another test, it missed a \$272 round-trip cyber-fare from Boston to Minneapolis on Northwest, even though the same route and travel dates were easily found and booked on the airline's site.

SideStep doesn't work on Macs or with Netscape Navigator. (Barth says it will be Navigator-compatible early this year.) But it does deal in cyber-fares and include every domestic airline, and it's brain-dead simple to use. —George Hobica

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NP2850

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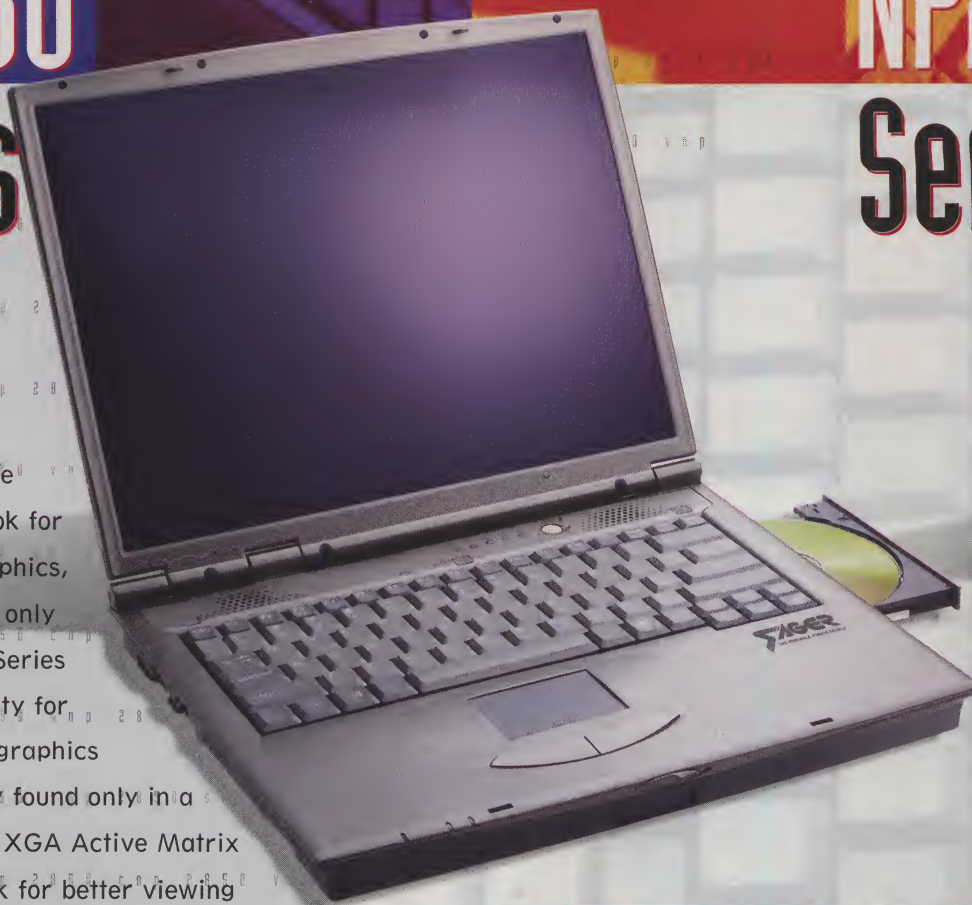
Sager presents the ultimate notebook for viewing and graphics, under 7.1 pounds and only 1.5" thin! The NP2850 Series offers speed and agility for handling demanding graphics applications normally found only in a desktop. With a 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display, you can't ask for better viewing size or capability in a portable computer. As for graphics, the NP2850 Series comes complete with a 2X AGP Chipset and a 3D Graphics Accelerator for blazing speed.

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NP2250

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- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
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- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
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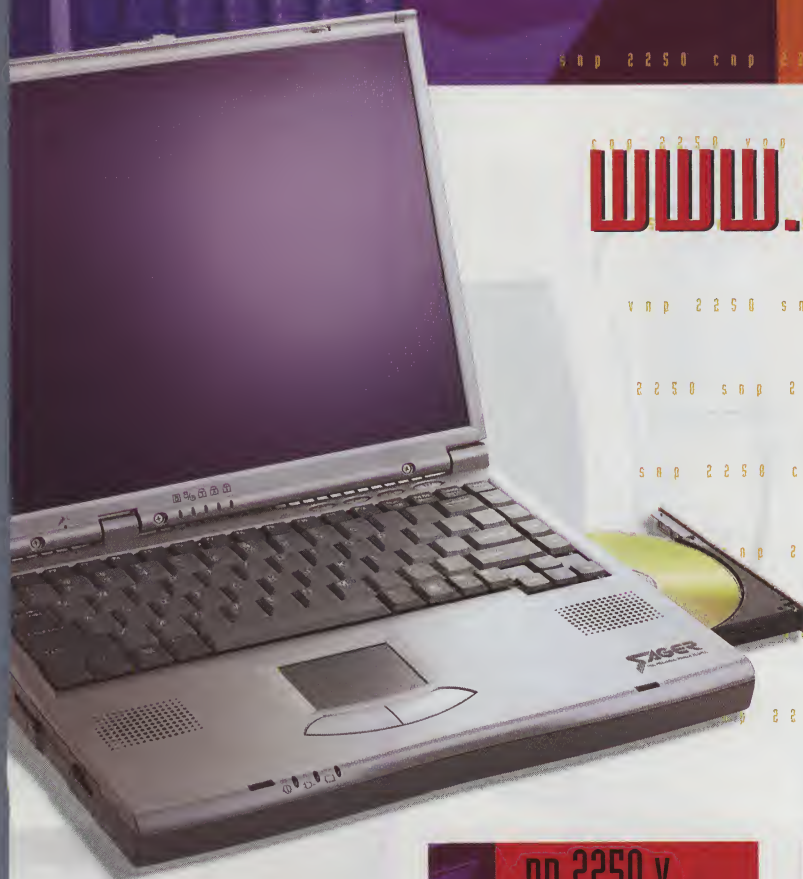
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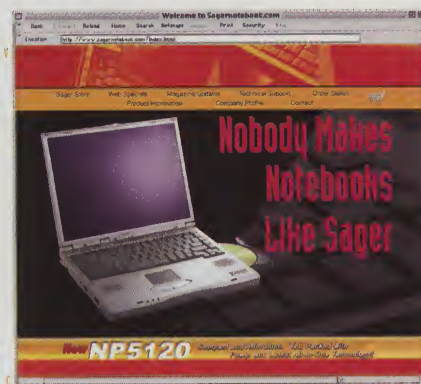
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- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
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- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
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- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
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- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1" w x 10.0" d x 1.48" h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem* + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1" w x 10.0" d x 1.48" h
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- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem* + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1" w x 10.0" d x 1.48" h
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Options

- Car Adapter
- 56K V90 Modem*
- USB Video-Camera

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- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 Kensington Lock Port
- Other Ports: USB, IS, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.6 lbs with Battery
- 11.0" w x 9.4" d x 1.6" h
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- Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 64MB SDRAM
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- Other Ports: USB, IS, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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np 5120 c

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- Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
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- 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem³ + 10/100 Ethernet
- The Smallest All-In-One Design
- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 Kensington Lock Port
- Other Ports: USB, IS, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Windows® 95 Keyboard
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- External Ports: 2 USB, Parallel, Serial, 2 PS/2 & D-sub 15-pin CRT
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- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem† + 10/100 Ethernet
- Contoured Cordless Internet Keyboard
- Optical Wheel Mouse
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3D Wavetable Sound
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- External Ports: 2 USB, Parallel, Serial, 2 PS/2 & D-sub 15-pin CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- 270° Swivel-base houses a 3.5" desktop-size HDD in an easily removable tray
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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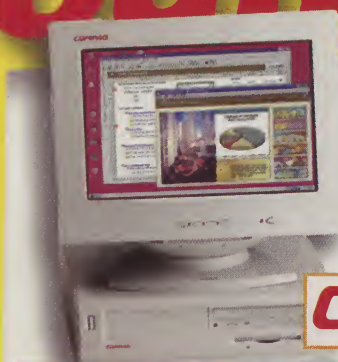
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- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
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- Contoured Cordless Internet Keyboard
- Optical Wheel Mouse
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3D Wavetable Sound
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- External Ports: 2 USB, Parallel, Serial, 2 PS/2 & D-sub 15-pin CRT
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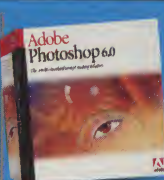


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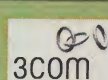
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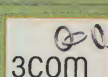


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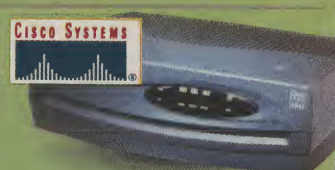


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\$199.99

Visor Deluxe 8MB Organizer
#955289
\$249

SONY FD-90 Digital Camera
#839610
\$799.99

Stylus Color 777 Printer
#952038
\$99.99

Nikon Coolpix 880
3.34 Megapixel Camera
#951207
\$679.99

ViewSonic E773 17" Monitor
#47798
\$248.99

HP 9500i CD-Writer Plus
12x8x32 EIDE Drive
#951839
\$269.99

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Presario 14XL340
#853476 Wireless Internet not included.

SONY 550MHz
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\$1,099
F610 #952755

TOSHIBA 650MHz
Intel® Celeron™ processor
64MB RAM, 6GB Hard Drive
DVD, 56K modem, 10/100 NIC
13.3" TFT Display, Windows Me
\$1,459
Satellite 2800CT #952333

IBM 500MHz
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56K V.90 modem
12.1" TFT display
\$1,997
ThinkPad X20 #951829

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Intel® Pentium® III processor
128MB RAM
\$4,959
ProLiant ML530 #850017

733MHz
Intel® Pentium® III processor
128MB RAM, NIC
\$1,979
ProLiant ML350 #58230

600MHz
Intel® Pentium® III processor
64MB RAM, 10.1GB
40X CD-ROM, NIC
No OS
\$1,289
Netfinity 1000 #82993

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40X CD-ROM
\$1,469
NetServer E800 #848718

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HOT GEAR

slick pix

What do you get when you fuse 2.31-megapixel resolution with a 3x optical zoom lens and duh-simple operation? If you're lucky, Minolta's \$449 **Dimâge 2330 Zoom**. This pocket-size autofocus digicam has an optical viewfinder for framing shots and a 1.8-inch color LCD for reviewing the results. It's a snap to connect to your PC via USB, but if a PC's not handy you can screen snapshots on your TV through the Dimâge's built-in video-out port. Bundled with the camera is a removable 8MB CompactFlash storage card that holds up to 24 standard-size images. Minolta throws in Adobe's popular PhotoDeluxe software, just in case your images aren't quite picture-perfect.

Minolta Dimâge 2330 Zoom 34162

Minolta
Ramsey, NJ; 201-825-4000
www.minoltausa.com

earn an emmy

Want to delve into award-winning digital video, but being held back by your VHS camcorder and its 20th-century analog connections? Enter the new millennium with the \$49.99 **Dazzle EmMe** connector from Dazzle Multimedia. This translucent green device, designed to work specifically with Windows Me, allows you to use ordinary composite and S-Video ports for video capture, and download everything to your PC via USB connection for digital translation. Also part of the package is Microsoft's Windows Movie Maker software, plus free membership in the Dazzle Webcast Theater, an online video showcase where your video clips can be downloaded by friends and family.

Dazzle EmMe 34163

Dazzle Multimedia
Fremont, CA; 510-360-2300
www.dazzle.com

totally rad rewritable

CD-RW is sexy technology, so why stuff it into a boring beige box? Iomega Corp. proves you don't have to with its sleek \$269.95 **Predator**. This silver-and-black USB-based hipster writes and rewrites at 4x and reads at 6x. Need zippiest throughput? An upcoming \$349.95 version will deliver ultrafast FireWire connectivity plus 8x/4x/32x performance. The Predator is packed with great software that includes Easy CD Creator, DirectCD, and Toast from Adaptec, as well as MusicMatch Jukebox Plus and MGI PhotoSuite.

Iomega Predator External CD-RW 34164

Iomega Corp.
Roy, UT; 888-446-6342
www.iomega.com

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make your visor wiser

Get a Visor PDA with Glenayre Technologies' **@ctiveLink** modem and service, and you can grab a world of information in the palm of your hand. The **@ctiveLink** Springboard module, bundled with an 8MB Visor for \$429 (the module will soon be sold separately), brings two-way wireless messaging to the Handspring platform. The module snaps into the Visor's Springboard expansion slot, allowing users to send and receive messages on SkyTel's national ReFlex network. The **@ctiveLink** also delivers Internet-query capabilities for news, sports, stock quotes, and weather services, as well as remote e-mail access.

Glenayre @ctiveLink 34165
Glenayre Technologies
Charlotte, NC; 704-553-0038
www.glenayre.net



mood rings

Like a modern-day mood ring, the **Nokia 3390** cell phone can change colors to match your ever-shifting emotional state. This eminently pocketable 4.2-ounce handset ships with six Xpress-on changeable front and back covers. The phone operates on the all-digital GSM 1900 platform, providing 2 hours and 40 minutes of talk time, and up to 7.5 days on standby. The 3390 supports nifty features like two-way text messaging, voice dialing, Caller ID, and personalized ring tones. Nokia expects it to cost under \$100 when purchased with a service plan.

Nokia 3390 34167
Nokia U.S.A.
Irving, TX; 888-256-2098
www.nokiausa.com

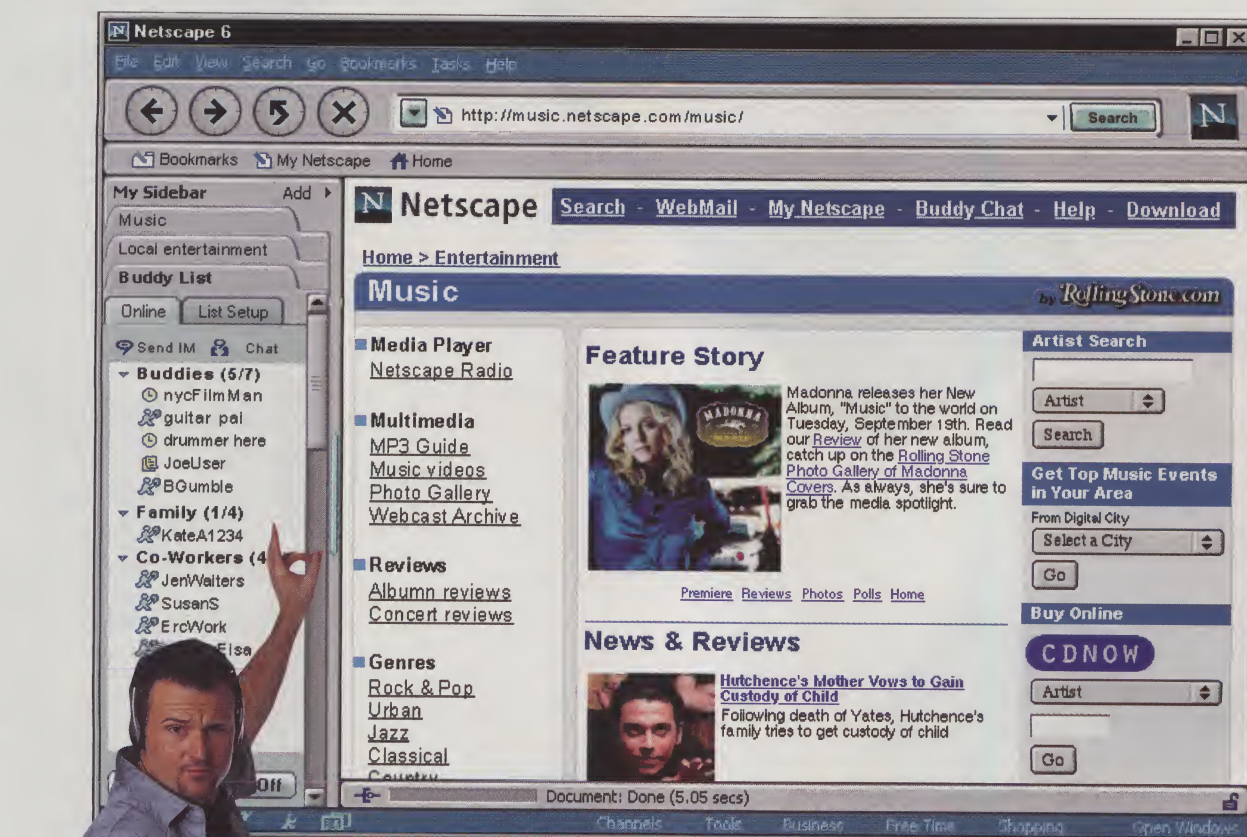


baby beamer

Raising (or should we say lowering?) the bar on portability for projectors is Compaq's \$4,999 **MP2800**, the world's smallest model. Tipping the scales at barely 3 pounds and standing only 9 inches tall, the MP2800 pumps out an incredible 900 ANSI lumens of brightness and a tight XGA native resolution. The projector ships with its own full-featured remote control, complete with built-in laser pointer. A multimedia module snaps onto the rear, adding cool connectivity options like an 8-watt single-speaker audio system, and support for DVD players and VCRs.

Compaq MP2800 34166
Compaq Computer Corp.
Houston, TX; 800-345-1518
www.compaq.com/products/projectors

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Gateway Learning PC



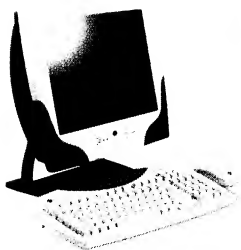
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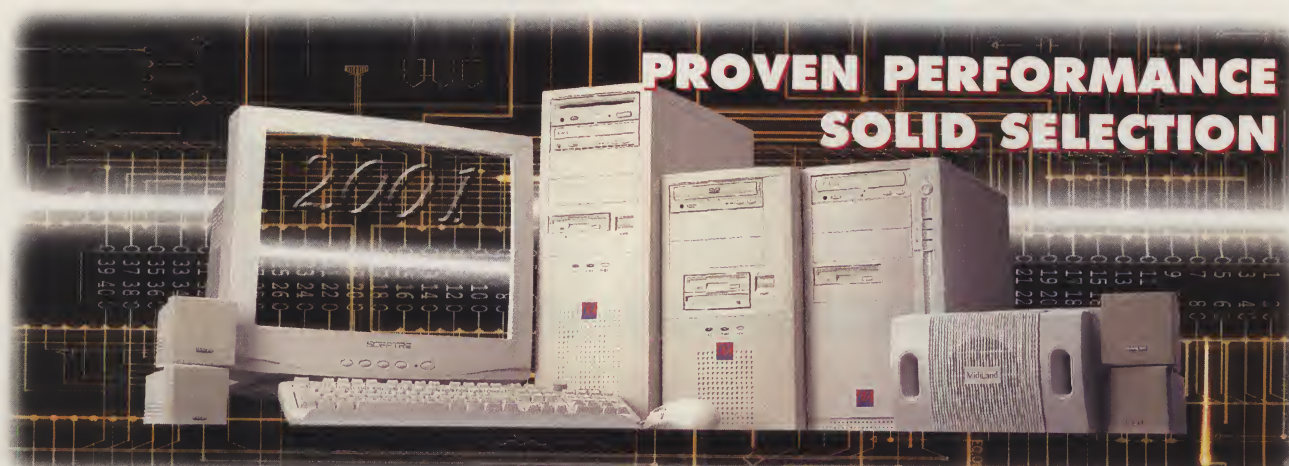
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PS5000N Editors' Choice

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- 56X CD ROM
- Nvidia GEFORCE 2 GTS 3D Ready DVD 32MB
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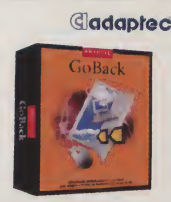
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800 MHz A5202	\$859
850 MHz A5203	\$879
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1000MHz \$839 S1208	

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- 40 GB UDMA Hard Drive
- 56X CD ROM
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- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- PCI 3D Wavetable Stereo Sound
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Pentium® III Coppermine
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700 MHz \$649 S2201		
766 MHz \$699 S2203		
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- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- PCI 3D Wavetable Stereo Sound
- MLI-460 450W Speakers w/Subwoofer

Intel Celeron® Processor
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Intel Celeron® Processor	
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Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor	
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866 MHz \$759 S3206	933 MHz \$819 S3207
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MS9000

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Pentium® III Coppermine
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Intel Celeron® Processor		733 MHz \$919 S4202
700 MHz \$909 S4201		
766 MHz \$969 S4203		
Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor		
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- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
- PCI Wave 4-Ch Surround
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Intel Celeron® Processor	
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766 MHz \$749 S5203	
Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor	
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866 MHz \$829 S5206	933 MHz \$889 S5207

GS9000

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- 16X DVD-ROM
- Nvidia GEFORCE 2 PRO 3D Ready DVD 64MB
- Motorola PCI 56K V.90 Voice Modem
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- Altec Lansing ACS-54 4-Ch Spkrs w/Subwoofer
- Microsoft Intelli Internet Keyboard
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700 MHz \$1,109 S6101		
766 MHz \$1,169 S6203		
Intel Pentium® III Coppermine Processor		
850 MHz \$1,239 S6205	866 MHz \$1,249 S6206	
933 MHz \$1,299 S6207	1000MHz \$1,419 S6208	

CHOOSE A MONITOR

19"



ELEMENTS

Cyclone 9A \$269
.26 d.p. 1600 x 1200 @ 60Hz

SCEPTRE



D98A \$295

.26 d.p. 1600 x 1200 @ 76Hz

NEC



AS90 \$349

.26 d.p. 1600 x 1200 @ 76Hz

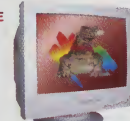
17"



ELEMENTS

Cyclone 7A \$169
.27 d.p. 1280 x 1024 @ 60Hz

SCEPTRE



D73P \$185

.27 d.p. 1280 x 1024 @ 60Hz

NEC



AS70 \$219

.27 d.p. 1280 x 1024 @ 66Hz

15"



SCEPTRE

D50X \$125

.28 d.p. 1024 x 768 @ 65Hz

NEC



AS50 \$159

.28 d.p. 1280 x 1024 @ 66Hz

INTRODUCING

StarOffice™ 5.2



Application Suite

Sun's multi-platform office suite offers **FREE FUTURE UPGRADES** and **INTEROPERABLE FULLY WITH MICROSOFT OFFICE SUITES.**

SEE HOW WE STACK UP!

Editors' Choice November 2000
Getting more for less plain feels good. Atlas Micro covers all the bases with its PS 5000, combining blazing speed with extras such as a DVD drive and a 17-inch monitor for less than \$1,000. This break-through system delivers jaw - dropping value and earns our Editor's Choice award.



Mr. Ken Feinstein

Editors' Choice June 2000
"Atlas clearly focused on speed when it created the **RS6000**. This system's no-nonsense approach to power left every other PC in this roundup in the dust...For the money, the Atlas **RS6000** is impossible to beat. Kudos to Atlas for offering this breakthrough configuration."



Ms. Julie Polito

Best Buy January 2000
"Sweet deals are made of this: The **AS9800**. This 700MHz Athlon-based system is configured to blast away the competition with no compromises at a take-no-prisoners price"

Mr. Bill O'Brien

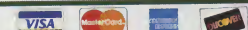
All Atlas Micro PCs include:

3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive, Medium ATX Case, Windows 98 SE Pre-installed w/CD & Manual, Sun Micro StarOffice Application Suite, Windows 98 Keyboard, Internet Mouse w/Scrolling Button, Deluxe Stand-up Microphone, 3-Year Parts and Labor Warranty, Life Time Toll-Free Technical Support.



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Business Hour:
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Toll Free Technical Support: 877-336-6898



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Includes Microsoft® Windows® 98 Second Edition—the home version of the world's favorite software.

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Computer Shopper and ZDNet editors pick the best values among the latest tech products.



Compaq Presario
7000Z-1.1

DESKTOPS

Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.1

At nearly \$3,000, the Presario 7000Z-1.1 clearly isn't an impulse buy. But if you're looking for a system that has every desirable feature—from a fast 1.1GHz Athlon CPU to a 75GB hard drive, three IEEE 1394 ports, and a GeForce2 GTS Ultra graphics card—the 7000Z-1.1 belongs on your short list. Its one-year warranty is too short, but you can buy another two years of coverage for an additional \$149.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 76
Compaq Computer Corp. • 800-888-0220
www.compaq.com
Direct Price: \$2,851 **34130**

Xi 1000K Mtower SP

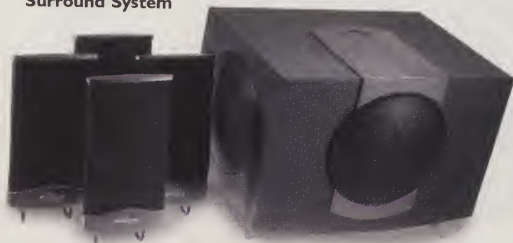
PC gamers will find a lot to like about this 1GHz Athlon-based rig. In addition to its impressive benchmark scores, the Mtower features a force-feedback joystick,



Xi 1000K Mtower SP

a digital five-piece speaker system, adequate expansion space, and a three-year parts-and-labor warranty.
REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE
Xi Computer Corp. • 800-432-0486
www.xicomputer.com
Direct Price: \$2,499 **34017**

Sonigistix Monsoon MM-2000 Flat Panel Surround System



SOFTWARE

ACDSee 3.1

This powerful image viewer and organizer gives you plenty of options for viewing and manipulating your image files, including choices for input and output methods, adjusting photos, creating contact sheets, and converting multiple files to new formats. ACDSee 3.1 isn't a full-blown image editor, but its efficient interface makes small adjustments a snap.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
ACD Systems • 800-579-5309
www.acdsystems.com
Direct Price: \$49.95 **34058**

Adobe Photoshop 6.0

It's amazing that after all this time, Photoshop continues to gain in sophistication and functionality. But that's clearly the case with version 6.0, which adds an overhauled text engine, a variety of new Web tools and filters, and support for vector shapes to its already formidable feature set.

REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE
Adobe Systems • 800-492-3623
www.adobe.com
Mfr. Est. Price: \$609 **33952**

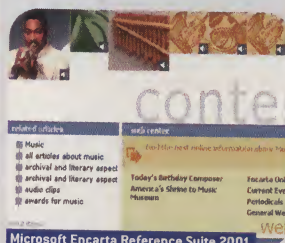
CorelDraw 10 Graphics Suite

Both casual users and graphics professionals will enjoy working with Corel's improved graphics suite. This version includes a new vector-animation program, Corel RAVE, as well as streamlined interfaces for CorelDraw and Photo-Paint. New color-management tools are smartly designed, with presets optimized for specialized tasks. And though the suite still can't import

Flash files, CorelDraw's new Undo feature is sweet compensation indeed.
SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 108
Corel Corp. • 800-772-6735
www.corel.com
Mfr. Est. Price: \$569.99 **34132**

Microsoft Encarta Reference Suite 2001

The Microsoft Encarta Reference Suite 2001 provides you with a bookshelf's worth of interactive reference works, including a world atlas, a dictionary, and, of course, the Encarta Encyclopedia. The applications share a common browser-like interface, which



gives you easy access to Encarta's hundreds of thousands of articles, images, and video clips.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
Microsoft Corp. • 888-218-5617
www.microsoft.com
Mfr. Est. Price: \$74.95 **34055**

Microsoft Publisher 2000

A sleek interface, talented wizards, tasteful clip art, and the most versatile output options around make Microsoft Publisher 2000 our prime pick in desktop-publishing software. Superb, simple-to-use formatting tools will have you publishing like a pro in no time. What's more, the well-integrated and powerful Web-publishing tools make it incredibly easy to create a smart-looking Web site.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
Microsoft Corp. • 800-426-9400
www.microsoft.com
Mfr. Est. Price: \$99.95 **34065**

HARDWARE

Evergreen Performa600

Before you buy a new PC, check out the Performa600. Evergreen's processor upgrade lets you pop a 600MHz Celeron CPU into your motherboard for only \$250. The Performa600 might take some tweaking, but Evergreen's support is excellent, and the benchmark scores on our test machine shot up 97 percent.

REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE
Evergreen Technologies • 541-757-0934
www.everttech.com
List Price: \$249.99 **33959**

Maxtor DiamondMax 80

Maxtor has surpassed itself in offering the most bytes for the buck. Although it spins at a modest 5,400 rpm, the DiamondMax 80 gives you an incredible 81.9GB of drive space, which translates to approximately \$3.66 per gig.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
Maxtor Corp. • 800-262-9867
www.maxtor.com
List Price: \$299.95 **34054**

Sonigistix Monsoon MM-2000 Flat Panel Surround System

The latest offering from Sonigistix furthers its reputation for building audiophile-quality flat-panel speaker systems. The new Monsoon MM-2000 is a five-piece, four-channel setup that consists of four sexy, thin satellites and a hefty cone-driven subwoofer. Although the MM-2000 lacks Dolby Pro Logic and Dolby Digital capability, it's priced reasonably for the performance it delivers.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 86
Sonigistix Corp. • 877-722-8346
www.monsoonaudio.com
Mfr. Est. Price: \$299 **34159**

Voyetra Turtle Beach Santa Cruz

Voyetra's new sound card delivers cutting-edge functionality and excellent sound quality, not to mention an intuitive control panel, six-channel analog and digital output, and support for all major MIDI and 3D-audio standards. Sounds like a winner to us.

REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE
Voyetra Turtle Beach • 800-233-9377
www.turtle-beach.com
Mfr. Est. Price: \$99 **33967**

GAMES

Age of Empires II: The Conquerors Expansion

This add-on to last year's masterful Age of Empires II is no mere expansion pack. Sure, it brings in five new civilizations—the Aztecs, Huns, Koreans, Mayans, and Spanish—and dozens of new technologies. But it's the subtle touches, such as the



Age of Empires II: The Conquerors Expansion

smarter villages and farms that replant crops, that make this title a classic in its own right.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
Microsoft Corp. • 800-426-9400
www.microsoft.com/games

Mfr. Est. Price: \$54.95 **34061**

Command & Conquer: Red Alert 2

The latest installment in the Command & Conquer series is an engaging real-time-strategy gem steeped in an alternate reality in which the Soviet Union invades the United States following World War II. Although the game incorporates all of the

familiar C&C elements, Westwood has added some brilliant new touches, including a tabbed construction bar in the interface and numerous multiplayer options. We'll take Manhattan, comrade.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 112

Westwood Studios • 702-228-4040

www.westwood.com

Mfr. Est. Price: \$39.95 **34151**

Return of the Incredible Machine: Contraptions

If you've ever dreamed of building a self-cleaning litter box or a scrap-metal rocket ship, this is the game for you. With more than 250 Rube Goldberg-style gizmos constructed from more than 100 different (and sometimes bizarre) parts, Contraptions is a brilliant brainteaser for the mechanically inclined.

REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE

Sierra Attractions • 800-757-7707

www.nowthisisfun.com

Mfr. Est. Price: \$29.95 **33992**

Star Trek: Voyager Elite Force

What do you get when you combine the Star Trek universe with the Quake III graphics engine? Answer: An amazing adventure that boasts breathtaking 3D environments, a believable story, impressive character interaction, and plenty of hair-trigger action.

REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE

Activision • 310-255-2000

www.activision.com

Mfr. Est. Price: \$45.99 **34021**

WEB SERVICES

Snapfish

For \$1.69 per roll, Snapfish will develop your 35mm film, send you back your prints on high-quality paper, and post your images online. The service even sends you postage-paid mailers and accepts disposable cameras. Photo cards, frames, and reprints are available, as are online albums.

The catch? You have to view your snapshots on the Snapfish Web site within 30 days, but that still seems reasonable to us.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 110

Snapfish • 415-820-3888

www.snapfish.com

Direct Price: \$1.69 per roll (up to 24 rolls per year) **34152**



Pacific Neo-Tek
OmniRemote



HP Pavilion N5190

MOBILE

Dell Inspiron 8000

This high-end notebook is stuffed with features, including an 850MHz Pentium III CPU, a panoramic 15-inch display, a 20GB hard drive, a DVD-ROM drive, and a 16MB



Dell Inspiron 8000

graphics adapter, yet it weighs a reasonable 7.9 pounds. The Inspiron 8000 also brought home the fastest performance we've seen to date in a notebook.

REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE

Dell Computer Corp. • 800-388-8542

www.dell.com

Direct Price: \$3,496 **34020**

HP Pavilion N5190

With its stylish design, excellent feature set, and good application performance, the HP Pavilion N5190 is a great choice in a midrange consumer notebook. At 7.2 pounds, this 700MHz Pentium III-based system is no featherweight, but it's packed with cool features, including a DVD drive, dedicated audio-CD controls, and a wide, comfortable keyboard. You can take it with you, after all.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 118

Hewlett-Packard Co. • 800-752-0900

www.hp.com

Mfr. Est. Price: \$2,399 **34120**

IBM ThinkPad A21p

Despite its top-flight components and sleek engineering, the IBM ThinkPad A21p weighs a relatively slight 7.2 pounds. But don't let its lack of heft fool you. This fully loaded desktop replacement comes packed with

an 850MHz Pentium III engine, 128MB of SDRAM, a monstrous 32GB hard drive, a vivid 15-inch LCD, and an 8x DVD-ROM drive. At \$3,699, it's not for everyone—only those who want the best.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE

IBM Corp. • 800-426-7235

www.ibm.com

Direct Price: \$3,699 **34098**

IBM ThinkPad i Series 1260

IBM has kept the price low on this Internet-centric portable by outfitting it with a 550MHz Celeron processor and a crisp 13.3-inch LCD. This \$1,618 ThinkPad also includes 128MB of SDRAM for zippy performance, customizable Web buttons, and an Internet scrollbar. It's missing a floppy drive, but then, that could be IBM's nod to the future.

REVIEWED IN DECEMBER ISSUE

IBM Corp. • 800-426-4968

www.ibm.com/thinkpad

Direct Price: \$1,618 **34010**

Pacific Neo-Tek OmniRemote

Are remote-control devices mysteriously proliferating in your family room? If so, consider the Pacific Neo-Tek OmniRemote. You can transform your Handspring Visor into a fully programmable and highly capable universal remote for a television, cable box, VCR, audio equipment—up to 15 devices in all.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 88

Pacific Neo-Tek • www.pacificneotek.com

Mfr. Est. Price: \$59.95 **34124**



IBM ThinkPad i Series 1260

HUGO

KIRBY

DUKE

CARLA

You've heard it all before, I know, but to finally have a site that you can trust to sell you the software you want at the price you'd hoped for... well that is news! We've been shipping more and more product out of our warehouse **FREE OF CHARGE** each and everyday. And, since Dad got me this job, I haven't had a moments rest. It's all I can do to keep up, Thank goodness for soda breaks! Keep those orders comin'!

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Kirby

Kirby K. Schmalley
Shipping Clerk

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NOTE: Upgrade/Full Version

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Professional* ...\$219/\$399
Standard*\$149/\$359
Project 2000 ...\$168/\$268

*Upgrades after \$40 Rebate



Windows 2000 Server

w/5 Clients ...\$399/\$549
w/10 Clients ..\$489/\$787
Adv. Server ..\$1557/\$2729

Adobe Graphics

Illustrator V9.0\$337
Photoshop V6.0\$539
FrameMaker V6.0 ...\$649
Pagemaker V6.5 Plus .427



Adobe Web Design

Acrobat V4.0\$209
GoLive V5.0\$245
Live Motion V1.0\$245



Borland / Inprise

C++ Builder V5.0 ..\$236/\$446
Delphi V5.0 Pro ..\$228/\$449
J Builder V4.0 Pro ..\$349/\$484



WordPerfect
OFFICE 2000

Corel WordPerf. Office 2000

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Small Business ..\$127/\$284

MS Visual 6.0 Programming

Studio Enterprise ..\$722/\$929
Studio Professional \$394/\$545
Basic/C++ Pro ...\$233/\$377



Windows O/S

Windows 2000 Pro \$137/\$232
Windows Me\$80/\$169
Windows 98.2 ...\$78/\$159



BackOffice V4.5/2000

BO Sm. Biz Server ...\$1155
BackOffice\$1799

Symantec

Anti-Virus 2000/2001\$18/27
SystemWorks 2000/2001 ..\$32/48
SystemWorks 2000/2001 Pro \$45/67
ACT! 2000\$114
WinFax V10.0\$71
pcAnywhere 9.0/9.2\$68/\$92



NOTE: Upgrade/Full Version

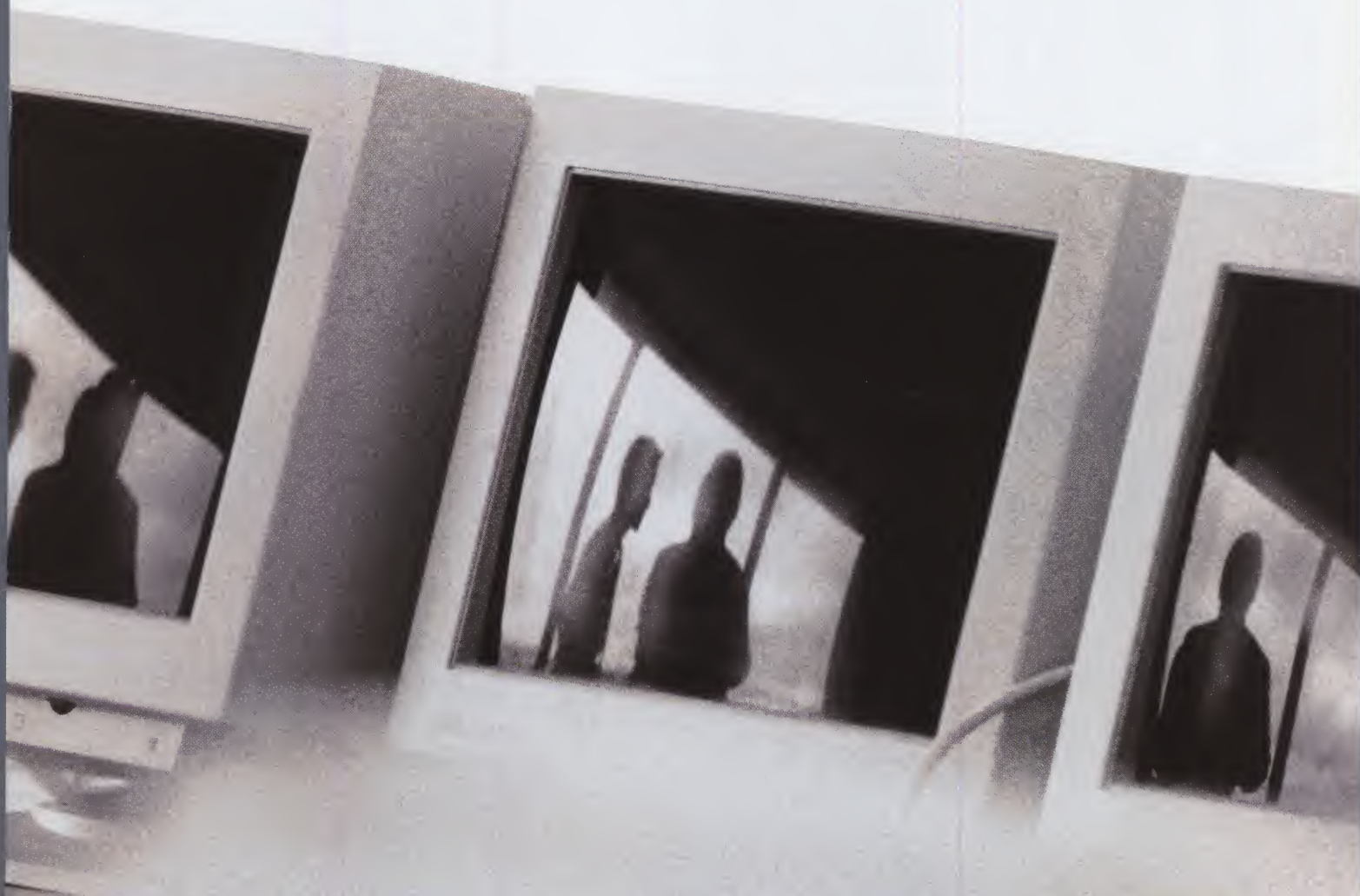
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- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- 1" thin, 3.65 lbs.*
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- 1-Year Parts and Labor Limited Warranty²

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- Modular Floppy Drive
- Modular CD-ROM Drive
- MS® Windows 98
- 1.38" thin, 4.9 lbs.*
- 1-year Parts and Labor Limited Warranty²

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Solo Productivity Pack 1.0

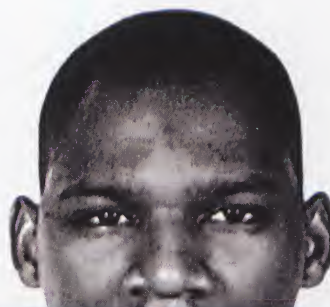
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Telecommuter



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- 20x min/48 max CD-ROM
- 10/100 Ethernet Card
- MS Windows 98 SE
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Gateway™ 6400 Server

- Intel Pentium III Processor 800MHz with 256K L2 Cache (supports up to 2 Processors)
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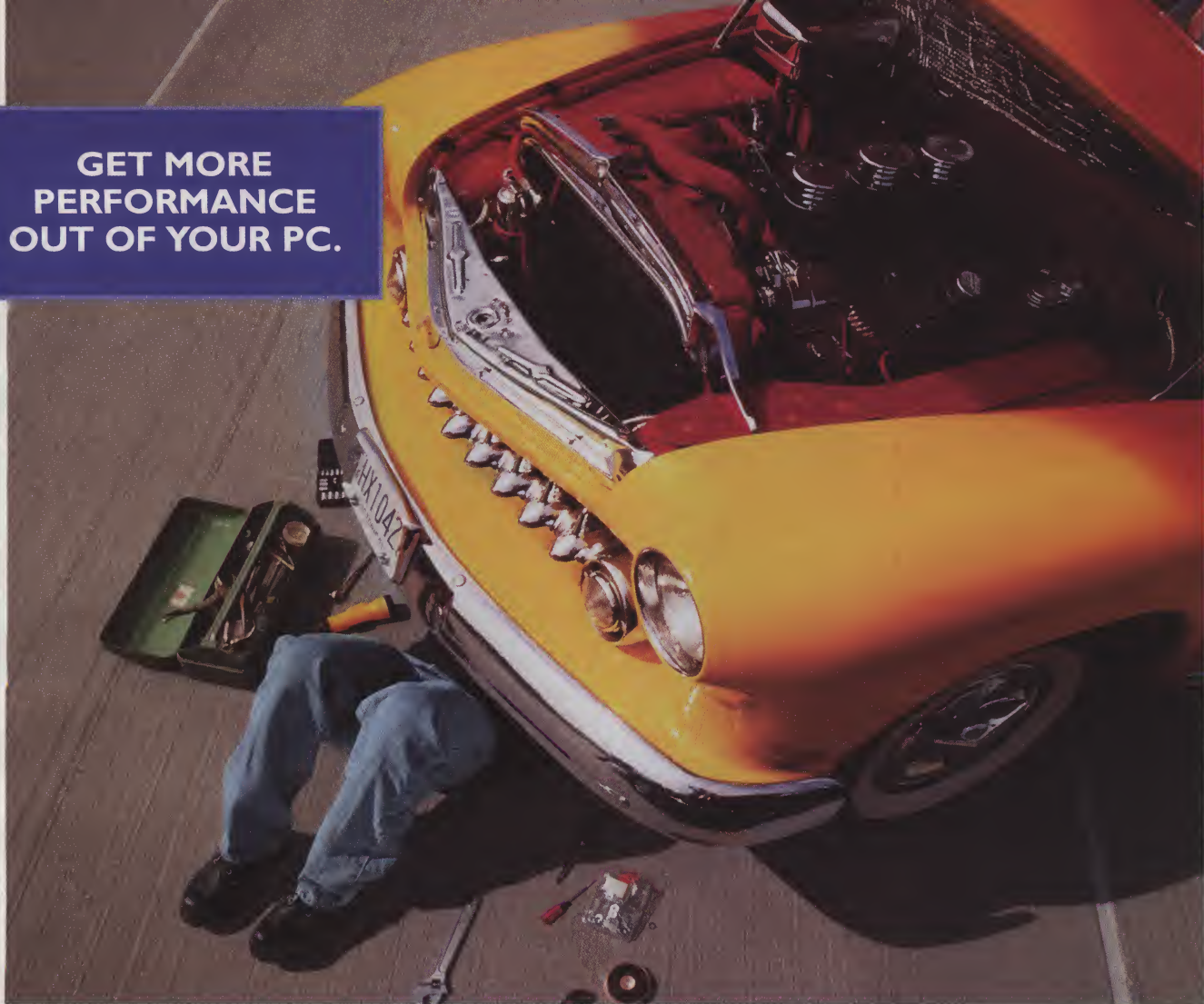
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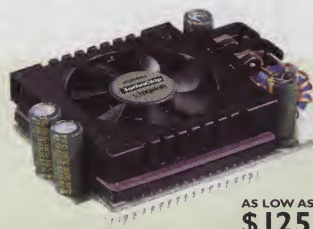
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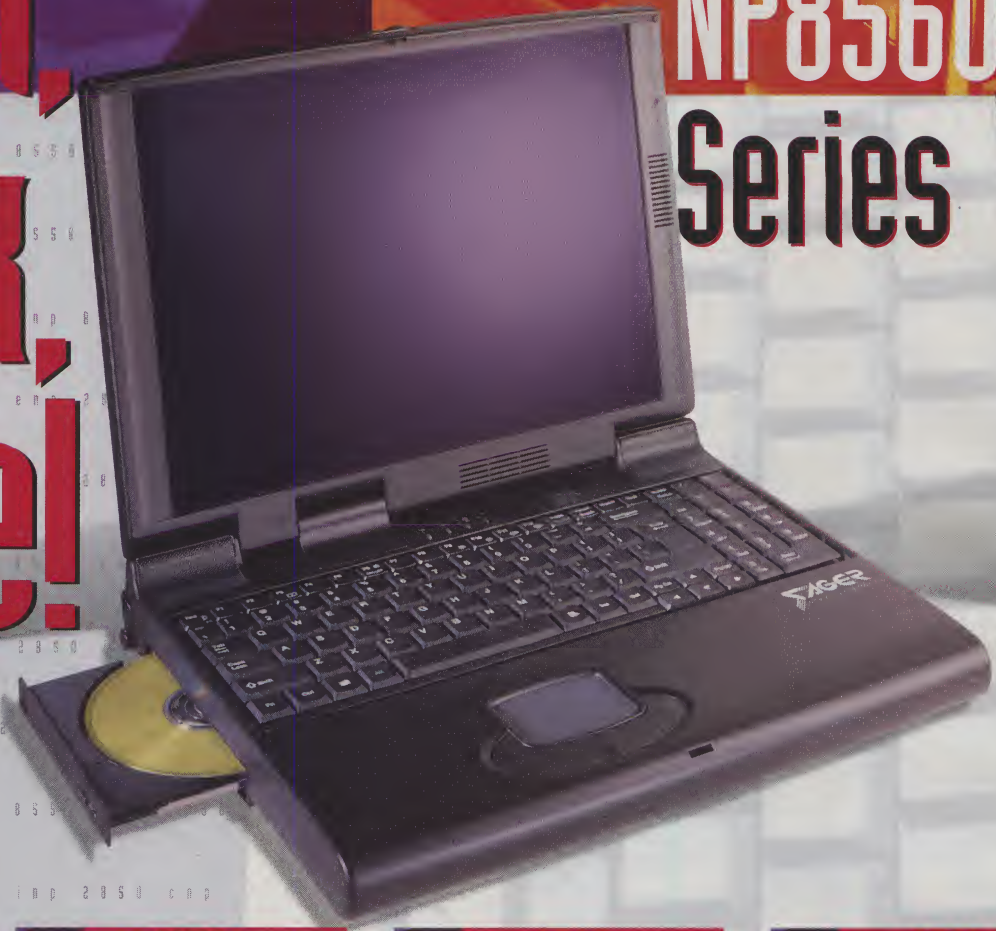


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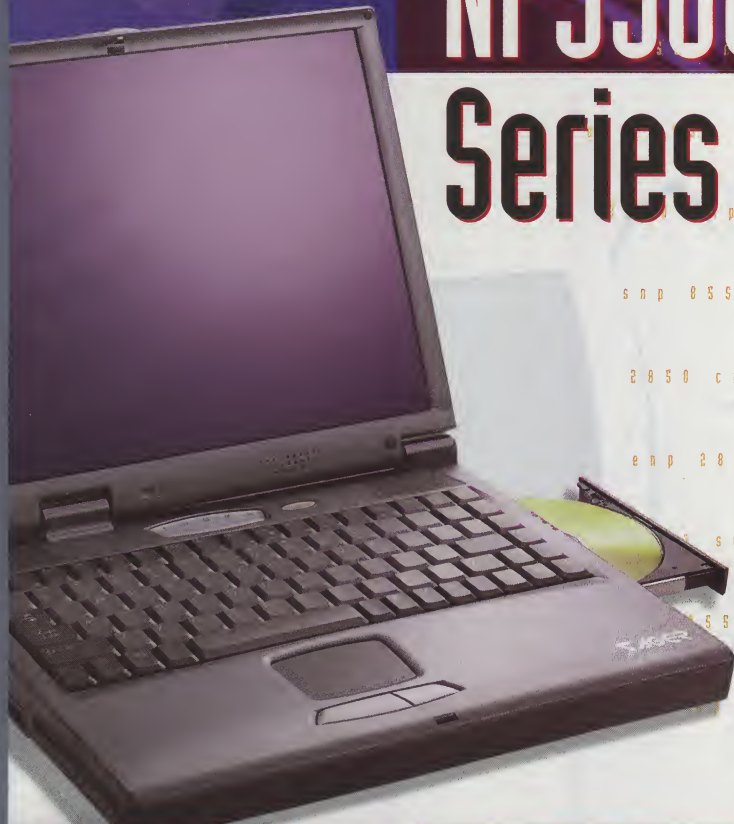
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**JOHN
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Toward Software As a Service

After much screaming and kicking, competing standards and devices will one day function together.

TODAY'S SOFTWARE POWERHOUSES, FROM MICROSOFT TO Oracle to IBM, now describe software as a service. In the early days of computing—15 years ago—software was simply a set of code that performed an action (word processing, for example). Now, software has become part of the delivery system for services (like booking hotel space).

Driving this shift is—you guessed it—the growing Internet. The change is fascinating to watch, because the Web is acting like a universal solvent, absorbing old categories and standards. Instead of many discrete parts, the Web is becoming the sum of its delivered services.

But the Web is a peculiar sort of solvent that depends on shared standards, even among fierce competitors. The Web also permits companies to add standards and technologies. So there's tension between the new developments needed to advance Web capabilities and more established ones (and the companies and organizations supporting them).

The scope of the Web makes this tension inevitable, because it crosses national boundaries, and incorporates multiple server types, several backbone communications networks, various operating systems, and multiple client devices.

PARTNERSHIP COMPETITION

The result is that companies are partnering (or merging) to gain access to advanced technologies, as well as to solidify support for standards they favor. Thus, the Web today is seeing some unusual bedfellows. AOL invested \$800 million in Gateway to develop a new generation of Internet appliances, and as a way to bundle Internet services with PCs. Nokia and Intel have agreed to develop a Linux-based set-top box to deliver Internet services via television.

Some partnerships involve snatching ideas, and others involve conflicting partners. Netscape (now part of AOL) and Sun have introduced a set of commerce services and servers along the lines of Microsoft's

BackOffice Server family. Microsoft is also seeking support for its portable CE operating system not only from Samsung and Sony but from Ericsson (itself part of the group behind the competing Symbian operating system that includes Psion, Nokia, Motorola, and Matsushita).

Naturally, similar struggles engage the standards themselves. Sun and Microsoft fought in court over rights to extend Java—though now Microsoft seems ready to abandon Java entirely, in favor of its new C# code. (And C#, while impressive, is not a cross-platform solution.)

Likewise, Sun and Microsoft are battling over the shape of Extensible Markup

Language (XML). Sun's Electronic Business XML (ebXML) is supported by the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards, while Microsoft's BizTalk Server 2000 offers its unique way of handling XML. BizTalk Server is part of Microsoft's .Net initiative, which requires Windows NT or Windows 2000 for Web application development.

Speaking of mixed loyalties, IBM is putting a billion dollars in 2001 into Linux development, while also supporting Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP), a key component of BizTalk. IBM is pushing both Linux (an OS alternative to Microsoft's) as well as .Net (with its foundation in the Microsoft OS family). Such cross-deals and overlapping loyalties are common in the emerging service-based Web—partly because no one knows which components will flourish. Placing multiple bets is prudent.

WILL THIS NEVER END?

Those of us who simply want the Web to deliver those promised services are frustrated by the conflict. But, consider, few imagined the World Wide Web even 10 years ago. So how could anyone build effective standards for it? The same is true for Web-enabled PDAs, cell phones, even Web-based multimedia content—few anticipated them.

We're making this up as we go along. Innovative companies see an opportunity and either develop the technology to support it or acquire a company that has it. Then they build support with partnerships, product introductions, and lobbying of standards bodies.

In the rapidly evolving Web environment, centralized planning—a "supreme court" for standards—would be a disaster for progress. The struggle among alternatives yields innovation.

As this sorts itself out, the Web will be littered with devices and technologies that don't pan out—as well as Web-delivered services that may take more work than getting the same service the old-fashioned way.

Now, portable devices are joining the Web. Using cell-phone standards, Bluetooth, and wireless Ethernet, these devices will extend the reach of Web services to your pocket, your car, your bicycle. With cheap Internet appliances in the mix, software as services will become reality. Soon we'll have the much-touted ability to purchase tickets and arrange baby-sitters on the fly, as the result of a chance meeting on a sidewalk.

For now, though, such capabilities will be delivered selectively and may require hard work. Consider it the price of progress.

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JOHN DVORAK

Trade-Offs Impede Shift to Broadband

The four flavors of fast Internet access offer an inexpensive alternative to T1 lines, but caveats remain.

THE ROLLOUT OF BROADBAND SERVICES WAS AT THE CRUX of many Internet startups, and the snags have seriously curtailed more than a few Internet stocks. Exactly why anyone would invest in a business model that relies on an industry that's still in its infancy and, in some cases, both subject to the whims of phone-service providers and contrary to their interests, is somewhat mystifying. Current broadband offerings come in four flavors: cable, digital subscriber line (DSL), fixed wireless, and two-way satellite.

Cable In the early days, cable could deliver more than 10Mbps under optimal conditions. It was also priced at a low \$49 a month. But its disadvantages were more numerous than its advantages. A networking expert had to perform each installation, and this took time. Also, as an area became saturated with users, the shared bandwidth fell so dramatically, some complained that at peak hours their standard 56Kbps modem connections were faster.

DSL First introduced by AT&T, DSL was a controversial technology within the company. Because it could be implemented and maintained over regular phone lines at very little cost, it had a direct impact on the company's expensive T1 services. Speeds can reach 80Mbps or so, depending on the system and the distance from the central office. And the distance issue is only temporary; tests show the signal could easily be boosted over repeaters for any distance.

DSL service is available in most of the country for \$49 and up, for anywhere from 384Kbps to 1.5Mbps. In parts of Canada, speeds of around 4Mbps can be bought for much less than Americans pay for sub-megabit lines.

One advantage DSL has over cable is its more consistent bandwidth delivery. Its disadvantages are the same as those of any phone-line service. A squirrel chewing through a wire represents a huge problem in some parts of the country. To solve it, com-

panies have designed wires with various antisquirrel coatings, usually a Tabasco derivative. Another point of failure lies with the servers that talk to the Internet. Telcos don't necessarily have the best Internet technicians working for them, although this is changing. And like cable, DSL requires manual installation. Standardized modems were supposed to eliminate this problem for both



services. But cable's standard DOCSIS modem still isn't universal, from what I can tell, and the DSL standard that was supposed to center around something called "G.Lite" never materialized.

Fixed wireless This is the hottest new offering—so new it's hard to get a feeling for how it will work if it becomes popular. It varies

from place to place, but typically, fixed wireless offers something like 1.5Mbps downstream and 128Kbps to 256Kbps upstream. For this you pay the same old \$49 everybody seems to think is the price point for broadband. These speeds are somewhat arbitrary, though. One company, Teligent, is hoping to offer 45Mbps, but it's hard to say what the pricing will be for such a service.

Fixed wireless uses a small two-way dish antenna aimed at a ground-based transmitter tower nearby. Offered by the likes of Sprint and AT&T, the service presents even more of an installation hassle than cable and DSL, but no more so than the hassle of getting a DSS TV dish installed. Luckily, the DSS business has created an infrastructure of installers that can be used for this and other services requiring a roof-mounted antenna. Early reports say the service is good for these systems.

Two-way satellite New narrow-aperture technologies enable two-way satellite systems to deliver speeds in the same range as fixed wireless—from 1Mbps to 5Mbps—although business customers should have access to higher speeds. The first to offer these systems is Gilat, an Israeli satellite company. RadioShack is selling the Gilat system in conjunction with Microsoft, a part owner of Gilat, but the system doesn't seem to be well marketed.

Its biggest draw is in rural areas where people simply can't get other technologies. The downside is the 5- to 6-second latency resulting from the distance to and from the bird. To make matters worse, certain weather conditions can interfere with the signal. Again, the price is in the \$49-a-month range, and professional installation is recommended.

With four technologies available to deliver broadband, you'd think more people would have it. The main problem is installation. All four systems essentially take installers from the same small pool of technicians. The dish installers are a subcategory of this group, causing an even more profound shortage.

It may be a decade before broadband access becomes universal enough for users to see any general benefit. Providers are promising some fancy features, but until they materialize, the market will continue to be perceived as too small to be taken seriously.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BLECK

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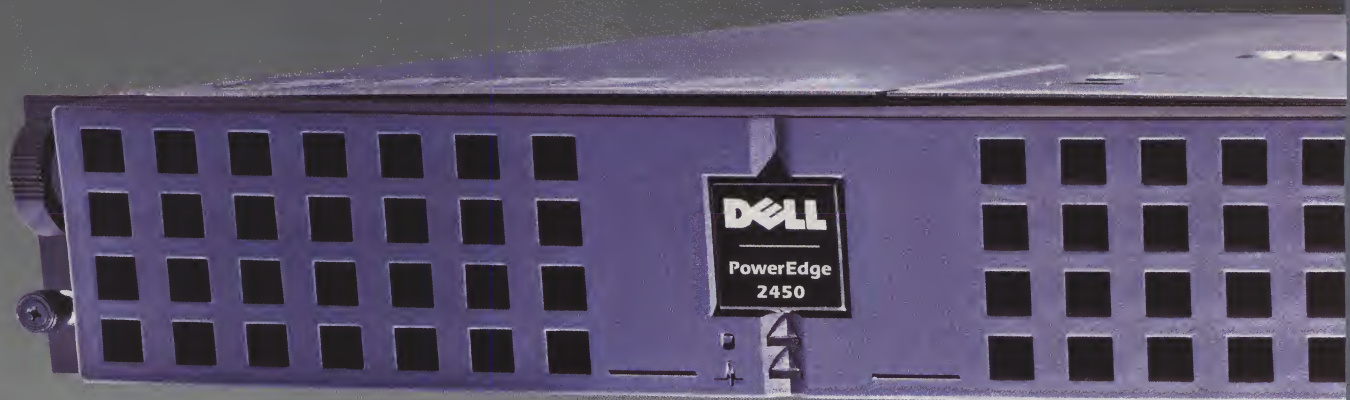


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M-Commerce Off to a Slow Start

Shopping via wireless devices hasn't caught on yet, but it will.

THE IMAGE OF FAILING DOT-COMS MAY BE TAINTING reports about the future of shopping on mobile devices. Analysts note daunting technical hurdles, including confusion over protocols, competing wireless networks, devices with differing capabilities, poor and uneven performance, and consumer apathy. In early 2000, 39 percent of consumers surveyed by Jupiter Communications said they didn't need wireless services for anything, let alone shopping.

In 1993, online shopping was considered laughable. It took a real application with instantly recognizable value in the form of Amazon.com to get the engine running. We haven't seen that catalyst in m-commerce yet, but wireless data services are steadily, if slowly, insinuating themselves into our lives.

BlackBerry pagers, which enable two-way e-mail messaging, are popping up on everyone from business travelers to Al Gore. Services such as OmniSky and YadaYada offer Palm V and Handspring Visor users e-mail and Web access with a clip-on modem for \$39.95 per month.

Though their offerings are rudimentary, Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com, and eBay have launched wireless versions of their sites. Features include single-click buying, auction alerts, and some interesting bonuses such as the ability to listen to music clips over the phone at Barnes&Noble.com.

EUROPE, ASIA LEAD THE WAY

Wireless services are more popular in Europe and Asia, where PCs are expensive. In Japan, NTT DoCoMo, provider of wireless Internet access based on a proprietary protocol called i-mode, has more than 12 million users, and it recently inked a deal to distribute AOL content and messaging services.

Phones supporting the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) and Short Message Service (SMS) have caught on big in Europe. (WAP is a two-way standard for browsing Web-based information; SMS is a one-way text-transmission service.) Europeans send more than a billion SMS messages per month. Entertainment-product auction site 12Snap is

performing m-commerce trials in Germany, Italy, and soon the United Kingdom. The site e-mails users each week to see if they want updates on their wireless phones. If they respond, 12Snap provides text updates on items such as MP3 players and local concerts. To bid, users just dial the number on the screen. The 12Snap service supports SMS, WAP, and cell broadcast, a form of local data transmission that works with most non-Internet-enabled phones. Brussels-based Mister Buzz is planning permission marketing over wireless devices in the form of stand-alone offers and sponsored content such as news.

Stateside, SkyGo is running a WAP-based advertising trial in Boulder, Colo., giving 1,000 participants free phones. Among the 50 advertisers was electronics retailer Best Buy.

THEY KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

With a GPS receiver in your phone, an m-commerce service can send you offers based not on where you live but on where you are at the moment. Big brick-and-mortar players have yet to offer anything unique on their sites despite glowing predictions from analysts, but wireless could be the way to drive in-store sales in a way the wired Web never could.

That's not to say you'll be walking past Starbucks when your cell phone alerts you to a

special on a double latte. Technical and cost issues make it inefficient for advertisers to track individuals. Rather, you'll have to provide permission before advertisers can send you location-based offers, and you'll probably be targeted in aggregate with other consumers in a larger geographic area. The United Kingdom's Saverfone, for instance, is working with brick-and-mortar retailers to offer coupons consumers can receive via their phones.

My favorite example of location-based m-commerce is Vindigo, a free directory service for the Palm that finds restaurants, retailers, and movies in 13 cities. Once you tell the service where you are, it displays suggestions, with relevant content from providers such as the Zagat Guide. Ads for stores along your route appear as unobtrusive text links. Tap for directions, phone numbers, and offers. Vindigo now supports GPS add-ons so you don't have to tap out your location, and at press time it was conducting a WAP trial for mobile phones.

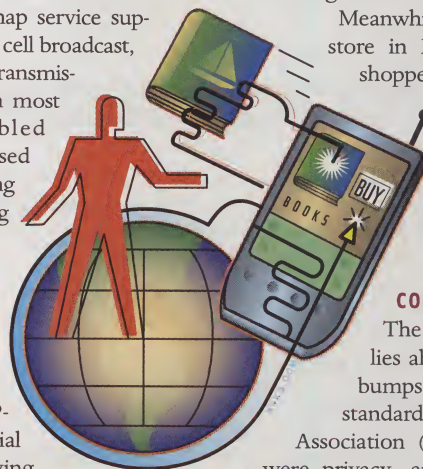
Meanwhile, a new Banana Republic store in New York lets Palm-toting shoppers download a map of the store. It's also planning a campaign to let Palm users at Manhattan phone kiosks beam holiday gift ideas and directions to the nearest store.

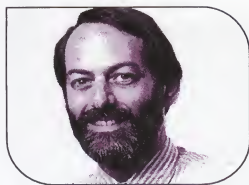
CONSUMER CONTROL

The road to more useful features lies ahead, but it won't be free of bumps. It's no accident the first standards the Wireless Advertising Association (WAA) announced last fall were privacy- and spam-related. It recommends all "push" wireless advertising and any use of personal information be limited to consumers who've opted in.

Companies testing m-commerce know the deck is stacked against them, yet they'll try to win you over. Expect incentives such as free or reduced-cost phone service in exchange for viewing or listening to ads. (Spotcast has done this with voice ads in Singapore and France.) Others will hunt for the more elusive simplicity that made Amazon great in 1995 and that Vindigo is promising today.

jobrien_eshopper@mail.com



MICHAEL
SLATER

Mobile Internet? Not Yet

The i-mode may be big in Japan, but we'll have to get past some hurdles before the wireless Web takes off in the United States.

WE'RE HEARING A LOT OF TALK ABOUT MOBILE INTERNET. Is it the wave of the future, or just another industry attempt to foist more technology on an unsuspecting public?

The wireless Internet products available today are effective for those who can work around their limitations. But they may not be useful enough for most of us to justify the hassle or cost. From cell phones to wireless PDAs, the Internet on the road isn't nearly as compelling as the Internet on the desktop.

There's one very important exception: Japan's i-mode phone. The i-mode phone has taken off spectacularly there, its success dwarfing that of any other mobile Internet device. But the situation in Japan is quite different from that in the United States. Home PCs are relatively rare in Japan, and wired Internet access is expensive, so there's a bigger opportunity for wireless Internet access. By building Internet access into a cell phone—which many have anyway—and making the service inexpensive, the i-mode system makes Internet access much more affordable for average consumers, especially young people, who are at the heart of i-mode's success.

The fact that i-mode is packet-switched, rather than circuit-switched like most other mobile systems, also contributes to its success. Connections are quick, and users are charged by the amount of data they send, not the connect time. The i-mode system is also graphical; the wireless application protocol (WAP) phones sold in the United States are text-only.

Although you can use i-mode for such activities as checking stock prices, its success has come from its value as an entertainment medium. Japanese consumers take readily to gadgets, and because they travel frequently on trains, they have lots of idle time; i-mode is more of a time-filler than a tool, offering features such as karaoke, restaurant guides, and fortune telling.

Many cell phones sold in the United

States are WAP-capable and Internet-ready, but only a tiny fraction of those who buy them use the Internet capabilities. Only 2 percent of AT&T's and 9 percent of Sprint's wireless customers currently use the service. Not many services make effective use of the tiny display, and compared to i-mode, these phones are just plain boring. In stark contrast to the i-mode, relatively few sites support WAP phones, their lack of graphics is limiting, and they offer essentially no entertainment value. Color graphics could give



WAP phones a big boost, if complemented by appropriate services.

Wireless modems are also available for several PDAs, and the Palm VII has one built in. They haven't been very popular, though, likely because purchase and usage costs are high, speeds are limited, and screens are small. The lack of a fast, natural method for entering text also handicaps

mobile e-mail use. Indeed, the Palm VII represents less than 2 percent of the installed base of Palm organizers, according to the company. Two-way pagers, with their tiny keyboards, are generally more effective.

A PDA such as a Pocket PC or Palm organizer still can't effectively browse normal Web pages, but it comes a lot closer to a true Web experience than a WAP or i-mode phone does. Wireless PDAs will become truly compelling as wireless packet data becomes faster and more pervasive. The debut of 3G wireless, which delivers hundreds of kilobits per second, will be a landmark event. This shift isn't too far off for the Far East, but it will be a while before it reaches the United States—2005 or later, by most estimates.

The i-mode system, which operates at only 9,600 bps, shows how a properly crafted system can be successful at low data rates. But don't confuse this with mobile Web browsing. Just as messaging on a pager is very different from conventional e-mail, access to the Internet on a small-screen device is entirely different from general Web browsing. I-mode found ways to make it compelling for a certain audience; WAP phones are still struggling. And as for devices that go beyond WAP, such as Internet-connected Pocket PCs, their larger screens require higher bandwidth.

Once the wireless infrastructure is upgraded, tremendous investment will be needed to optimize Web sites for small-screen devices. Most Web sites are designed for at least a 640x480 screen; viewed at 320x240, they just aren't very effective. But until many more wireless handhelds come into use, Web developers don't have much incentive to make this investment.

In the long run, after high-speed wireless packet data networks are widely available, many more Web sites have been optimized for wireless access, and wireless devices themselves become more sophisticated and have more capable displays, wireless Internet devices will be so pervasive we'll all take them for granted, much as we do cell phones today. They won't replace large-screen desktop and notebook computers; they'll serve different needs.

By 2003, 61 million Americans will use Internet-enabled mobile devices, according to International Data Corp. But although the proliferation of wireless Internet devices is inevitable, it will be a long, slow evolution, especially in the United States.

michael@mslater.com

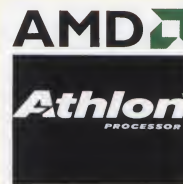
Draw a line from the application to the processor that now runs it faster.

1.



Microsoft® Office 2000

A.



2.

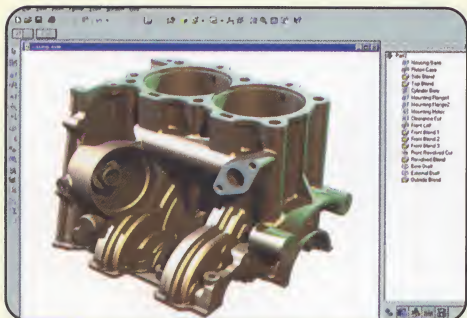


Adobe Photoshop 6.0

B.



3.



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C.



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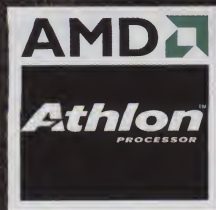
Pictured with Cyber Acoustics CA-15 Speakers and 17" Monitor.



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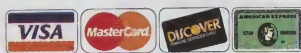
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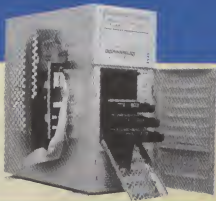
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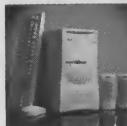
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HP CD-Writer 9500i ATAPI 12X/8X/32X	\$245.99
Plextor PlexWriter 8X/4X/32X ATAPI	\$149.99
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Sources: (1) IntelliQuest CIMS, Business & Home Influencer Studies v.7.0 (2) IntelliQuest CIMS, Business Influencer Study v.7.0 (3) IntelliQuest CIMS, Home Influencer Study v.7.0 (4) MRI, Fall 2000

DESKTOPS

ACER VERITON FP2-T800A

More Panache Than Performance

TAKE BACK SOME SPACE ON YOUR DESKTOP WITH ACER AMERICA CORP.'S diminutive and stylish Veriton FP2-T800A. It leaves a tiny 6x13-inch footprint and, thanks to its LCD monitor, occupies fewer cubic inches overall than a 17-inch monitor. It works well in a home or small-office setting, but don't expect concert-level sound or fast-paced graphics.

A handle at the top of the system lets you get the 25-pound Veriton FP2-T800A out of the box and onto your desk in record time. Two USB ports on the front of the chassis make connecting the USB keyboard and mouse a snap. In fact, we timed the full setup at just over 3.5 minutes, and most of that was spent opening boxes.

When you fire up the FP2-T800A, the quality of the LCD will astound you. Acer's 15-inch TFT LCD panel handles a 1,024x768 Windows desktop image with aplomb. You can even detach the panel from the computer case, but you'll need the optional \$99 stand to support it.

We'd normally pan a system offering only two front-accessible drive bays, both of which are filled. Acer, however, has come up with a great compromise—both of the front-accessible drives are hot-swappable. With help from a software utility available on the Windows taskbar, you can slide drives in and out while the system remains powered up. Windows takes a few seconds to reconfigure itself for the new device, but the convenience is worth the wait.

Acer offers CD, DVD, CD-RW, and even additional hard drives that can be swapped in and out of the chassis. Our FP2-T800A arrived with the 24x CD-ROM drive. We'd recommend you opt for a CD-RW setup as your base system. You get the same basic CD-ROM functionality, but with writing capability thrown in.

For all of the desk space you might recover, downsizing a PC always involves

compromises, and the FP2-T800A is no exception. Not only is it a PC with an attached display, but the speakers are tucked inside the case as well. Truthfully, it's generous to call them speakers—listening to music on them was painful. No amount of adjustment made things better, and WAV and MP3 files sounded poor as well.

Graphics performance is also an issue here. Rather than using an independent graphics card, Acer relies on the embedded graphics capability of Intel's 815E chipset. Embedded graphics controllers rarely perform at the leading edge, as evidenced by

the FP2-T800A's 24-bit color palette limit.

The system's Quake III Arena score of 31.5 makes the FP2-T800A a borderline 3D-gaming machine. It significantly outperforms similar systems using the older 810E chipset, but it lags way behind other 800MHz systems using dedicated graphics cards. Similarly, its Business Graphics WinMark

99 score of 142 shows the PC to be adequate for 2D graphics, but it still outperforms only 810E-based PCs.

Mediocre graphics performance means lackluster application performance as well, though the system should be fine for running mainstream applications that aren't graphics-intensive. An AGP slot is available on the inside if you want to upgrade to a perkier graphics card. However, you'll need to find one that has DVI output for the LCD panel.

Getting inside the case requires a screwdriver. Removing three screws on the back and one from the bottom lets you slide off the rear panel; take off two more screws that hold an RFI shield in place, and you're done. But unless

you're adding more memory or a graphics card, you won't find much inside to fiddle with. The only card slot is the 4x AGP slot (the embedded graphics system uses 2x AGP), and the only internal drive bay already holds the hard drive.

Put a bunch of Veritons in a small office, and you won't suffer the same heat wave that a flock of monitors would inflict on you. Or just tuck one into a niche in your home if you're looking for an unobtrusive computer. You'll end up with a bit more panache than performance for the money, but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

—Bill O'Brien

EDITORS' RATING 7.2

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN.....	8
EASE OF USE.....	8
FEATURES.....	7
PERFORMANCE.....	6
SERVICE AND SUPPORT.....	8
VALUE.....	6

- Small footprint; great LCD; hot-swappable drives
- Minimal expansion room; poor speakers; subpar graphics performance

SYSTEM:

Acer Veriton FP2-T800A

COMPANY:

Acer America Corp.
San Jose, CA; 800-733-2237
www.acer.com

AS TESTED: 800MHz Pentium III; 128MB PC133 SDRAM; 20GB hard drive; 24x CD-ROM drive; integrated video on Intel 815E chipset; Acer 15-inch LCD flat-panel display; integrated AC97 audio; built-in speakers; integrated V.90 modem; integrated 10/100Mbps Ethernet

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$2,099

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DESKTOPS

COMPAQ PRESARIO 7000Z-1.1

The Porsche of Power Systems



INITIAL IMPRESSIONS CAN SOMETIMES BE WRONG. AT FIRST glance, we thought Compaq had simply tossed every high-tech part it could find, willy-nilly, into the \$2,851 Presario 7000Z-1.1 to justify its hefty price. But after a closer look, we determined that, despite the price, this is perhaps the best-thought-out all-purpose computer we've seen in a while.

You can easily slide the Presario 7000Z-1.1 into your business. Stack its 1.1GHz Athlon muscle against any of the 1.5GHz Pentium 4 systems on the market—you'll save money, and the Presario will beat them hands down on current business applications.

Compared to a 1.5GHz Compaq Deskpro EXS, for example, the Presario's 3D WinMark

2000 scores are approximately 5 percent to 17 percent higher, depending on the color palette level. The Presario's Business Graphics WinMark 99 result is 41 percent higher, and even its Business Disk WinMark 99 score is almost 4 percent better.

If you have an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) DV movie camera, you're ready to sit in the director's seat.

The Presario features three IEEE 1394 ports (two rear, one front), a large and fast (100MB/sec throughput and 7,200 rpm) 75GB IBM hard drive, and My Movie Studio video-editing software. Don't keep those clips to yourself: Put them on CD with the included CD-RW drive, and send them to your friends and relatives.

When you tire of making your own movies, entertain yourself with the Presario's DVD drive and Compaq DVD player software. The 18-inch viewing area of the MV940 monitor is more than up to the task of even letterbox-format movies, and the relatively tight 0.26mm dot pitch on a display this large almost guarantees super-clear video. The monitor's onscreen digital controls are complete and easy to use. Feeding the video through the nVidia GeForce2 GTS card makes playback

hiccup-free, and you can even sneak in some quality 3D gaming when no one's looking.

Connectivity isn't an issue for the Presario. Along with the usual assortment of ports and plugs, and the multiple IEEE 1394 interfaces, Compaq includes a Fast Ethernet card in case you're looking to connect to the Net via cable modem or DSL. A V.90 modem and an extra pair of front-mounted USB ports fill out the connectivity options.

This Presario also boasts tool-free access to its interior. Inside you'll find a 275-watt power supply, two free PCI slots, three free drive bays, and two free DIMM sockets for its PC100 SDRAM. Combine that with the USB and IEEE 1394 ports, and it's hard to imagine an expansion device you couldn't find a way to connect.

We do have one nit to pick—the two-piece JBL speakers. They get the job done, and unless you've heard the bass rolling off the subwoofer of a three-piece system, you might think they're fine. But equipping this PC with a two-piece speaker set is like putting bunny slippers on Hulk Hogan. Compaq offers

the optional THX-certified five-piece Klipsch ProMedia v.2-400 speaker system. It adds \$249 to the price, but in exchange you get 400 watts of

what's arguably the best audio this side of Carnegie Hall.

As with other Presarios, the 7000Z-1.1 comes with a mail-in offer for an Accent Color Kit that lets you personalize its appearance. Choose from red, orange, green, blue, or purple, and be prepared to wait up to six weeks for delivery.

Hardware support is toll-free for the length of the warranty; software support stops after 90 days. Compaq's standard warranty covers the Presario for one year on parts and labor, and you can either carry the system into your local Compaq retailer, or Compaq will send a technician onsite. It's a reasonable plan, but bear in mind that the Presario 7000Z-1.1 is an investment-class computer. We'd highly recommend spending an extra \$149 on Compaq's extended warranty. You get the same repair provisions, but the coverage stretches to three years. It's a little more expensive than the usual \$99 add-on warranty, but it's worthwhile insurance. After all, the Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.1 is so muscular that you'll probably still own it long after those three years have come and gone.

—Bill O'Brien

EDITORS' RATING 8.2

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN.....	8
EASE OF USE.....	8
FEATURES.....	8
PERFORMANCE.....	9
SERVICE AND SUPPORT.....	8
VALUE.....	8

Powerful performer; large-capacity hard drive; IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface
 Basic speakers; extended warranty cost slightly higher than average

SYSTEM:

Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.1

COMPANY:

Compaq Computer Corp.
Houston, TX; 800-888-0220

www.compaq.com

AS TESTED: 1.1GHz Athlon; 128MB PC100 SDRAM; 75GB hard drive; 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive; 16x DVD drive; nVidia GeForce2 GTS Ultra graphics card with 64MB DDR memory; 19-inch Compaq MV940 monitor; Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value sound card; JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port; Compaq V.90 modem; Compaq 10/100Mbps Ethernet PCI network card; Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: \$2,851

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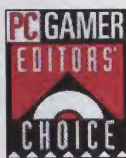


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- 120 Watts PMPO Stereo Speakers
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INTEL CELERON 600	\$445	(hosp021)
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\$609

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- AC97 Stereo Sound
- upgrade: Sound Blaster Live! Value @ \$50
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- MS Windows ME (Millennium) Edition
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- upgrade: Altec Lansing ACS33 Speakers @ \$39
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- Free One Year On-Site Service

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\$655

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- upgrade: 10x8x32 CD-RW Drive @ \$99
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- AC97 Stereo Sound
- upgrade: Turtle Beach Quadzilla A3D Digital @ \$39
- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Scrolling Internet Mouse
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- Free COREL Office 2000 & 70+ Software Pack
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- ALTEC LANSING ACS54 5 Pieces Speakers
- Free COREL Office 2000 & 70+ Software Pack
- Free One Year On-Site Service

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AMD ATHLON 1.2G HZ	\$1539	(drsp026)
INTEL PENTIUM III 800	\$1429	(drsp027)
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- upgrade: 256MB PC133 SDRAM @ \$69
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- 12x DVD-ROM
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
- ATI Xpert 2000 32MB AGP Graphics
- upgrade: GeForce-2 GTS DDR 32MB @ \$119
- AC97 Stereo Sound
- upgrade: C.L. Sound Blaster Live! Value @ \$50
- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Scrolling Internet Mouse
- MS Windows ME (Millennium) Edition
- 480 Watt Subwoofer Speaker System
- Free Corel Office 2000
- Free One Year On-Site Warranty
- 10x8x32 CD-RW - add \$129

AMD DURON 700	\$849	(assp021)
AMD DURON 800	\$865	(assp022)
AMD ATHLON 800	\$915	(assp023)
AMD ATHLON 900	\$929	(assp024)
AMD ATHLON 1GHZ	\$975	(assp025)
AMD ATHLON 1.1GHZ	\$1029	(assp026)
AMD ATHLON 1.2GHZ	\$1065	(assp027)

\$999

BACK TO SCHOOL

- AOPEN KT-133 200 FSB 4x AGP MB
- upgrade ASUS 4x AGP MB @ \$55
- 128MB PC133 SDRAM
- 30GB UDMA66 HDD (option: UDMA100)
- 17" Digital SVGA Monitor, 27mm
- 84x32 CD-Rewritable Drive
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
- NVIDIA GeForce-2 MX 32MB Video
- C.L. Sound Blaster Live! Value
- upgrade: C.L. Sound Blaster Live! MP3+ @ \$59
- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Scrolling Internet Mouse
- upgrade: MS Optical Intelli Mouse @ \$59
- ALTEC LANSING ACS33 Speakers
- upgrade: Altec Lansing ACS54 Speakers @ \$39
- MS Windows ME (Millennium) Edition
- Free Corel Office 2000
- Free One Year On-Site Warranty
- 16x DVD-ROM - add \$95

AMD ATHLON 800	\$999	(btssp021)
AMD ATHLON 900	\$1019	(btssp022)
AMD ATHLON 1GHZ	\$1069	(btssp023)
AMD ATHLON 1.1GHZ	\$1109	(btssp024)
AMD ATHLON 1.2GHZ	\$1139	(btssp025)
INTEL PENTIUM III 800	\$1069	(btssp026)
INTEL PENTIUM III 933	\$1119	(btssp027)

\$1299

GAMER'S PRO

- Rating: 12345678910 best
- AOPEN KT-133 UDMA-100 4X AGP MB
- 128MB PC133 SDRAM, 300 Watt ATX Case
- 30GB Ultra DMA-100 HDD
- 19" Digital SVGA Monitor, 26mm
- upgrade: VIEWSONIC E790 19" .22 @ \$79
- 52x Creative Lab CD-ROM
- 84x32 CD-Rewritable Drive
- Microsoft Intelli Mouse ; PS2 Win98 Keyboard
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Modem w/Voice
- ATI RADEON 32MB DDR 4x AGP Graphics
- upgrade: ATI Radeon 64MB DDR w/VIVO @ \$149
- Creative Lab Sound Blaster Live! Value
- MS Windows ME (Millennium) Edition
- Free Corel Office 2000
- Free One Year On-Site Warranty

AMD ATHLON 900	\$1299	(gpsp021)
AMD ATHLON 1GHZ	\$1339	(gpsp022)
AMD ATHLON 1.1GHZ	\$1395	(gpsp023)
AMD ATHLON 1.2GHZ	\$1425	(gpsp024)
INTEL PENTIUM III 800	\$1339	(gpsp025)
INTEL PENTIUM III 933	\$1399	(gpsp026)
INTEL PENTIUM III 1GHZ	\$1499	(gpsp027)

\$1645

GAMER'S DREAM

- ASUS A7V UDMA-100 4x AGP MB
- 256MB PC133 SDRAM; 300 Watt ATX Case
- 40GB Ultra DMA-100 HDD
- 19" Digital SVGA Monitor, 26mm
- 16x DVD-ROM Drive
- 12x10x32 CD-Rewritable Drive
- Microsoft Intelli Mouse
- PS2 Win98 Keyboard
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Modem w/Voice
- NVIDIA GeForce-2 GTS DDR 64MB 4X AGP
- upgrade ATI RADEON 64MB w/VIVO @ \$10
- Creative Lab Sound Blaster Live! Value
- upgrade: C.L. Sound Blaster Live! X-Gamer @ \$59
- ALTEC LANSING ACS54 5 Pieces Speakers
- upgrade: Altec Lansing ADA305 Speakers @ \$69
- MS Windows ME (Millennium) Edition
- Free COREL Office 2000
- Free One Year On-Site Warranty

AMD ATHLON 900	\$1645	(gdsp021)
AMD ATHLON 1GHZ	\$1679	(gdsp022)
AMD ATHLON 1.1GHZ	\$1729	(gdsp023)
AMD ATHLON 1.2GHZ	\$1759	(gdsp024)
INTEL PENTIUM III 800	\$1679	(gdsp025)
INTEL PENTIUM III 933	\$1739	(gdsp026)
INTEL PENTIUM III 1GHZ	\$1839	(gdsp027)

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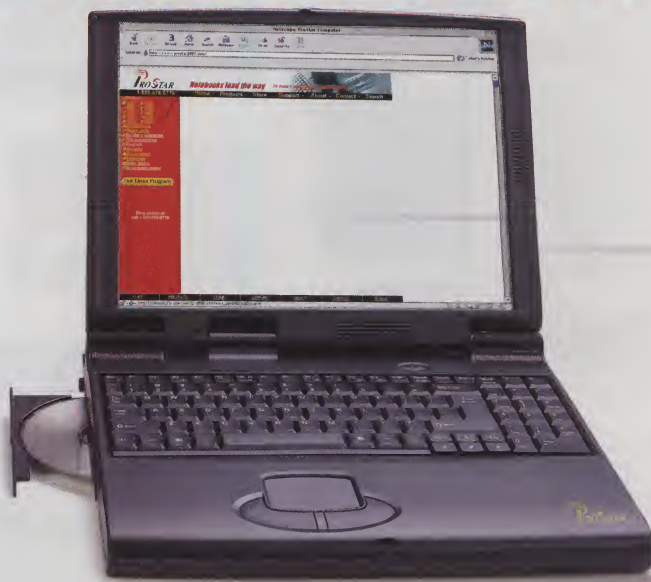
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8593



Common Features

- > 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 16MB Video Memory
- > 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega Zip Drive, or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® ME
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter

8593



Common Features

- > 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 16MB Video Memory
- > 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® ME
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter

2893



Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® ME
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.8" w x 10.15" d x 1.49" h

2293



Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. user definable share Memory Architecture
- > 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® ME
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.1" w x 10.0" d x 1.48" h

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 933MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive*
8X* Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2495

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$2095

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$1995

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 600MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
6.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$1445

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1.0GHz
256MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive*
8X* Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2695

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive*
8X* Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2245

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive*
8X* Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2295

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X* Max. DVD opt.)

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3153



Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft Windows ME
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.4"

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive¹
24X² Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X¹ Max. DVD opt.) **\$1745**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive **\$1995**

3153



Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft Windows ME
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.4"

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive¹
24X² Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X¹ Max. DVD opt.) **\$1645**

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive **\$1745**

5190



Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. user definable share Memory Architecture
- > 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
- > 3D Sound Effect
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 USB Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- > A4 Size 86-Key Keyboard for Easy Typing
- > Microsoft Windows ME
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Super Slim Notebook: 11" w x 9.4" d x 1.5"

12.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 512MB
6.0GB Hard Drive¹
24X² Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X¹ Max. DVD opt.) **\$1295**

12.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive¹
24X² Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X¹ Max. DVD opt.) **\$1495**

LP200



Common Features

- > New LCD PC
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. user definable share Memory Architecture
- > The 270 swivel-base houses a 3.5" desktop-size HDD removable tray
- > 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
- > 3D Wavetable Sound
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers
- > Contoured Cordless Internet Keyboard
- > Wheel Mouse Optical
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft Windows ME

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB PC133 SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive **\$1995**

15" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1.0GHz
256MB PC133 SDRAM expandable to 512MB
46.0GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive **\$2395**

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THE CLIENTPRO CN FROM MICRONPC.COM IS ALL WORK AND NO play. You won't find a fast 3D gaming card, top-notch audio, or other "distractions" in this no-frills system that's targeted to business users. What you will get in the \$2,164-direct ClientPro Cn is a workstation that delivers solid performance and a long list of manageability features at a competitive price.

To accomplish this goal, micronpc.com packed our ClientPro with an 866MHz Pentium III processor, but mated it (thanks to the Intel 815E chipset) to PC133 SDRAM instead of the more costly RDRAM typically found on high-end systems. The ClientPro Cn also boasts a 7,200-rpm, 40GB hard drive with a swift Ultra ATA/100 interface. Throw in an nVidia Riva TNT2 M64 graphics card to keep 2D graphics humming on the Micron 700EX 17-inch monitor, and you've got everything you need to run the supplied Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business suite and much more. (You can omit the office suite if you have a different corporate standard.)

What the ClientPro Cn doesn't offer is entertainment features. The Riva card is great for 2D—and it's at least twice as fast as the Intel 815 (Solano) integrated graphics chipset that it overrides—but office slackers will be thwarted because it doesn't offer sufficient 3D performance for gaming. Likewise, the embedded audio and the Altec Lansing two-piece ACS21 speakers are adequate for listening to music while you work (our test system included a 48x CD-ROM drive and an 8x/4x/32x CD-RW), but they'll hardly satisfy ardent gamers.

If that lack of entertainment features—and the technical problems that can arise from them—doesn't bring a wry grin to the face of an IT manager, then the ClientPro Cn's networking capabilities certainly will. The embedded Intel Pro/100 VE networking connection means the ClientPro Cn is network-ready right out of the box—but that's only the start.



The ClientPro Cn features Desktop Management Interface (DMI) 2.0, Wired for Management (WfM) 2.0, Asset Management, Remote Wake-Up and Maintenance, PC Health monitoring (temperature, voltage, and fan status), Chassis Intrusion Security Alerting, and hard drive SMART II monitoring. Wrap that all together with LanDesk Client Manager 6.1, and you have quite a comprehensive management package.

The ClientPro Cn's intelligently designed chassis makes short work of maintenance, upgrades, and repairs. To access the system components, just push two green tabs on the back, and the side panel opens. Push another green tab inside, and the front panel pops up.

Anywhere you see a green tab, it's a component that needs no tools to remove or replace. The only exception is the interface-card cage. That's a silver tab at the back of the system—give it a push, and it releases a pressure bar (no screws) holding the cards against the back of the chassis. Pull cards out, slide them in, then push the tab back to lock them in place.

In fact, the only time you'll find a screwdriver in your hand is if you want to remove the right-side panel, which you'll need to do to get at the tabs holding the drives in place. And the midtower case provides plenty of room for expansion, with four USB ports (two front and two rear), five available PCI slots, one free DIMM socket, and six free drive bays.

The ClientPro Cn is covered by one year of onsite service, available the next business day. You can extend the warranty up to a maximum of five years. For just a few dollars per year, you can also get up to three years of priority technical support.

With this level of support, you get a toll-free 24/7 priority access number that will give you a response in under two minutes, according to micronpc.com. The company also offers a wide range of outsourced IT services in partnership with Unisys, including installation, data transfer, system upgrades, multivendor support, and more.

In the medium and large businesses micronpc.com targets with the ClientPro Cn, platform stability is another important consideration, and micronpc.com addresses this concern with standard components with long production runs. Designed from the start to be a high-performance, low-cost PC, the ClientPro Cn is one lean and mean business desktop.

—Bill O'Brien

EDITORS' RATING 8.2

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	9
EASE OF USE	8
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	8
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
VALUE	9

- Competitively priced; solid performance; comprehensive set of manageability features; well-designed chassis; extensive warranty and support options
- Limited graphics and multimedia capabilities

SYSTEM:

micronpc.com ClientPro Cn

COMPANY: micronpc.com
Nampa, ID; 800-522-6910**www.micronpc.com**

AS TESTED: 866MHz Pentium III; 128MB PC133 SDRAM; 40GB hard drive; 48x CD-ROM drive; 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive; nVidia Riva TNT2 M64 graphics card; 17-inch Micron 700EX monitor; AC97 integrated audio chipset; Altec Lansing ACS21 speaker system; integrated 10/100Mbps Ethernet; Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business; additional software

DIRECT PRICE: \$2,164

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64MB RAM • 10GB HDD
48X-20X⁶ CD-ROM
10/100 Ethernet
Microsoft® Windows® 98 SE
Lotus® SmartSuite® Millennium Edition⁷
15" (13.9" viewable) monitor (Part #15MONW1)
3-year parts/1-year onsite labor
limited warranty⁸
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IBM NetVista A40

Outstanding manageability and flexibility

Pentium® III processor 866MHz
128MB RAM • 20GB HDD
40X-17X CD-ROM
10/100 Ethernet
Windows 2000
Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition
17" (15.9" viewable) monitor (Part #17MONW1)
3-year parts/1-year onsite labor
limited warranty
Part #6278PBU

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(Part #20L0255) \$169⁹ or \$6/month⁹
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(Part #10K3765) \$99.99⁹ or \$3/month⁹
Onsite Service Upgrade: 3-Year/Onsite/
9x5/Next Day Response
(Part #30L9197) \$147⁹ or \$5/month⁹



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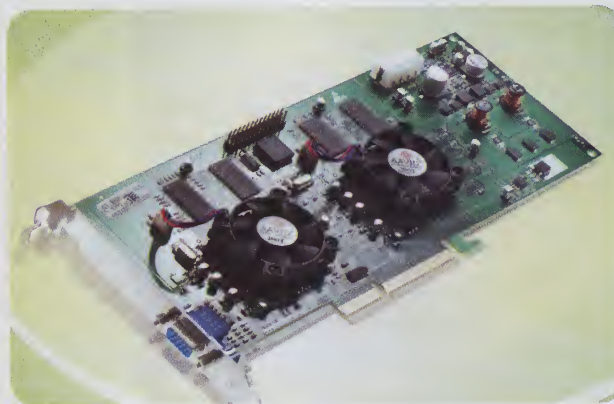
HARDWARE**3DFX VOODOOTV 200 PCI**

Tune In Again Tomorrow

IF THAT COMPUTING VOODOO YOU DO INCLUDES TV and radio capture, you may want to check out 3dfx Interactive's \$99.99-list VoodooTV 200 PCI card. The VoodooTV is among the first cards to use the Microtune silicon tuner, and includes input connectors for RF/antenna, stereo audio, S-Video, and composite video.

Setup was straightforward, and we had no problem scanning and locking in channels from our cable connection. We were then able to select channels using the onscreen remote control or our keyboard's plus and minus keys (useful for full-screen viewing).

The card offers most standard TV-card functions—including closed captioning, parental channel lockout, and freeze-frame capability—as well as a couple of unusual attributes such as a manual fine-tune control and a zoom



feature. Both the video- and still-image-capture capabilities operate intuitively, but the data-rate controls are clumsy.

The VoodooTV lacks several features currently offered by competitors such as ATI Technologies' TV Wonder and Hauppauge Computer Works' WinTV lines. For example, you'll have to wait for a future software upgrade to perform true "time shifting"—stopping and playing back the video while it's being recorded in the background. Moreover, the VoodooTV captures bitmaps in 16-bit rather than 24-bit color, causing noticeable banding.

You can capture video (from the tuner or external source) in either MPEG-1 or AVI format, although the card's lack of an audio out-

put prevents you from exporting edited videos back out to tape. And while you can convert captured FM-audio clips to MP3 files, the FM tuner doesn't have the scheduling capabilities necessary to make it truly useful. Bundled software includes 3dfx's VisualReality onscreen remote, Microsoft NetMeeting, and Ulead Systems' VideoStudio editor.

Overall, the 3dfx VoodooTV 200 PCI is a capable first effort, but third-generation products from companies such as ATI and Hauppauge are still better choices.

—Jan Ozer

EDITORS' RATING 6.0

RATED 1 TO 10

DISPLAY QUALITY	6
FEATURES	6
SETUP AND CONTROLS	7
VALUE	5

Easy to use; good fine-tuning for channels; FM-tuning capabilities

No time-shifting feature; 16-bit still-image capture; no audio output for exporting edited videos

PRODUCT:

3dfx VoodooTV 200 PCI

COMPANY: 3dfx Interactive

San Jose, CA; 888-367-3339

www.3dfx.com**LIST PRICE:** \$99.99

3D Net Price It!
3 4 1 2 9

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RICOH MP7120A

The Concorde Of CD-RWs

CALLING THE RICOH MP7120A A FAST CD-RW IS LIKE calling the Concorde a fast airplane. Rated at 12x/10x/32x maximum speeds, that translates to up to 4.8MB/sec for CD-ROM reads. And at \$249 direct, you pay just a small premium for this performance.

The CD-R write rate is the most interesting spec, because that's what you'd use for burning music CDs and data discs. The 12x rating translates to 1.8MB/sec, and the drive's actual 1.57MB/sec came close in our tests. However, this amounts to saving just 1.5 minutes when burning a 632MB disc compared to a 10x drive.

As with any high-speed drive, the actual data-transfer rates are lower than the maximum rating. Reading a CD-R containing 301MB of

data, the drive averaged 2.43MB/sec, or about 16x speed. Similarly, CD-RW performance came in at 1.19MB/sec on our tests, about 8x speed rather than the 10x rating.

Physical installation is simple. Set the master/slave jumper, find an open EIDE cable connector, plug in a power connector, boot up Windows, and you're done. The single-sheet installation instructions are sparse but adequate.

The bundle includes two software programs from Prassi. One, abCD, provides packet-writing support for CD-RW drives; the other, Primo CD Plus, lets you create music

and data CDs. Though functional, neither program is as easy or versatile as Adaptec's Easy CD Creator.

The drive is backed by a one-year parts-and-labor warranty, but "commercial or income-producing use" reduces the warranty to 90 days.

A slower drive might cost slightly less than the MP7120A, and only take a minute or two longer to burn your CDs—something budget buyers may want to consider. But if you want to burn full speed ahead, the Ricoh MP7120A will get your discs done in the shortest time for a reasonable price.

—Alfred Poor

**EDITORS' RATING 7.8**

RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES	6
INSTALLATION	8
PERFORMANCE	9
VALUE	8

Fast performance; easy to install; good value
 Light documentation; software bundle could be better

PRODUCT: Ricoh MP7120A**COMPANY:** Ricoh DMS-C

Tustin, CA; 877-742-6479

www.ricohdms.com**DIRECT PRICE:** \$249

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MAXTOR 1394 EXTERNAL STORAGE SOLUTION**HARDWARE**

External Drives Boost PC Storage

USERS OF PCS NEVER TOOK TO EXTERNAL HARD drives the way the Macintosh community did, perhaps because SCSI never attained the same ubiquity in the Windows world. Maxtor Corp. takes advantage of SCSI's emerging successor, the IEEE 1394 (FireWire) standard, to jump-start sales of external hard drives. Its 40GB and 80GB 1394 External Storage Solution products make a reasonable—though not terribly compelling—case for thinking outside the box for your mass-storage needs.

The 1394 External Storage Solution (ESS) consists of a 5,400-rpm Maxtor DiamondMax 40 or DiamondMax 80 hard drive encased in a shockproof housing. These drives perform more modestly than their internal siblings because they're configured to operate more quietly at the expense of performance. Based on our tests of the 80GB unit, it was 22 percent slower on standard business apps



and 42 percent slower on more disk-intensive applications. That's still faster than any removable-storage alternative.

Plus, the endless, easy chainability of IEEE 1394 combined with the relatively low cost—\$279.95 for the 40GB model, \$399.95 for the 80GB—makes it an attractive solution for multimedia production. It's also a good option for people who rip lots of MP3 files or dabble in home digital-video editing. Until mid-March of 2001, Maxtor is offering a \$50 rebate on its \$49.95 1394 PC Adapter card when you buy the 1394 ESS, essentially making it free.

Installing the 1394 card to test the drive was easy; installing the drive was more troublesome. On a Windows 98 or Windows 98

Second Edition system, you have to update the OS with some files contained in a Critical Update. This didn't work for us, and we had to download a driver from Microsoft's Web site (www.microsoft.com).

The drive can be moved from one location to another, but it's bulky, and Maxtor stresses that it's not portable. Still, if you're consuming hard drive space at an alarming rate, you might want to consider plugging in one of these Maxtor units, especially if you've already got a 1394 port on your system.

—Lori Grunin

EDITORS' RATING 5.8

RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES6
INSTALLATION AND SETUP...5
PERFORMANCE5
VALUE7

Hot-swappable; easy-to-install; giant capacity
Throughput limited by design; large; not truly portable

PRODUCT: Maxtor 1394 External Storage Solution
COMPANY: Maxtor Corp., Milpitas, CA
800-262-9867, 408-432-1700
www.maxtor.com
LIST PRICE: \$279.95 (40GB); \$399.95 (80GB)

Net Price It!
3 4 1 5 3

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

SONY DCR-TRV20

A Dual-Purpose DV Grabber

DIGITAL VIDEO (DV) CAMCORDERS DELIVER great-quality video, but most are poor choices for shooting still images. Sony's \$1,799 DCR-TRV20 DV camcorder, equipped with a megapixel CCD and Memory Stick support, is adept at both.

The DCR-TRV20 is a compact camcorder of classic design. You hold it in your right hand, with the shooting controls by the thumb and zoom controls by the index finger. You can shoot through the color viewfinder, or view and play back on the 3.5-inch, 184,000-pixel TFT LCD panel. The Carl Zeiss lens features a relatively modest 10x analog and 120x digital zoom. At the heart of the camera is a 0.25-inch, 1.07-megapixel CCD that can grab up to 1,152x864-resolution progressive-scan images.

For shooting video, the camera offers the usual auto-everything mode, with manual controls available for

focus, white balance, shutter speed, and exposure. You can also choose between seven programmed auto-exposure (AE) modes. Other video features include infrared night-shot capabilities and the ability to convert incoming analog video to DV footage.

Still-image options are much less complex. You can record at one of two resolutions, superimpose still images over your video, create a slide show, and more.

Under perfect shooting conditions, video quality was about average, but the Sony's

programmed AE modes produced excellent quality under challenging conditions.

Still-image quality was simply phenomenal, with crisp, highly detailed images that belied their DV-camera origin. Regrettably, the DCR-TRV20 can't shoot video in the progressive-scan format that lets you grab discrete stills from video footage.

Professionals who work with both still and video digital images have been seeking the perfect device to capture both. With the Sony DCR-TRV20, they may have found it.

—Jan Ozer

**EDITORS' RATING 7.2**

RATED 1 TO 10


DESIGN7
EASE OF USE7
FEATURES8
IMAGE QUALITY6
PERFORMANCE8
VALUE7

Solid DV quality; excellent still-image capture for a camcorder; good performance in programmed AE mode; analog-in capture; compact design
Only one CCD means lesser-quality DV; limited media bundled in

PRODUCT: Sony DCR-TRV20
COMPANY: Sony Electronics Park Ridge, NJ; 800-222-7669
www.sel.sony.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: \$1,799

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No, we're not talking about a diet product, this is the Fujitsu LifeBook™ S Series. The only ultra-mobile notebook with a removable DVD or CD-RW drive. Thin and light, this unique work station is powered by a Mobile Pentium® III processor featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ technology. Weighing under 4 pounds with features that include a built-in modem and Ethernet for superior communications, a 12.1" XGA TFT display, advanced security and Smartcard technologies.

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SONIGISTIX MONSOON
MM-2000 FLAT PANEL
SURROUND SYSTEM

HARDWARE

A Monsoon
Of Sound

THE SONIGISTIX MONSOON LINE OF FLAT-panel speakers has wowed desktop audiophiles for more than two years. Based on innovative planar-driver technology, the Monsoons combine sparkling sonics with futuristic aesthetics. Sonigistix's latest entry (scheduled to start shipping by February 15) is the \$299 four-channel MM-2000 Flat Panel Surround System, which includes a quartet of flat-panel satellites, a hefty 1,300-cubic-inch cone-driven subwoofer, and 340 RMS watts of amplification.

The satellites each pack one of Sonigistix's standard 4x8-inch flat-panel transducers into a sexy black metal-screen chassis less than half an inch thick. The panels consist of a thin conductive diaphragm suspended between powerful magnetic bars.

Testing the speakers with source material that ranged

from four-channel games to a variety of 20-bit remastered audio CDs and DVDs, we were consistently knocked out by the lucid, uncolored sound and extended high end. The satellites also produced precise three-dimensional imaging whatever the source material.

The subwoofer's 6.5-inch cone driver, dual 6.5-inch passive radiators, and 100-watt amplifier pumped out exceptionally tight bass. Explosions and laser blasts had real punch, bass lines popped, and kick-drums sounded convincing.

The MM-2000 is a stunning game system, but like all four-channel speakers, it lacks the ability to reproduce the front-center and discrete subwoofer signals encoded within Dolby Digital DVD soundtracks, and also lacks digital S/PDIF inputs. DVD aficionados

would be better served by a true 5.1-channel speaker system.

Audio purists should note that the MM-2000's sound quality isn't quite as detailed and transparent as that of many mid-price audiophile speakers. We were also disappointed by the system's lack of floor-standing rear speaker stands, which cost \$99 direct from Sonigistix. And the Monsoon's maximum output levels may disappoint rabid gamers who won't settle for anything less than lease-breaking volumes. —Don Labriola



EDITORS' RATING 8.0

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
FEATURES	7
SOUND QUALITY	9
VALUE	8

Fabulous sound; great look; easy setup
No 4.1 or 5.1 output; no digital inputs; floor stands for rear satellites a \$99 option

PRODUCT: Sonigistix Monsoon MM-2000 Flat Panel Surround System
COMPANY: Sonigistix Corp. Richmond, BC, Canada 877-722-8346
www.monsoonaudio.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: \$299

ZDNet Price It!
3 4 1 5 9

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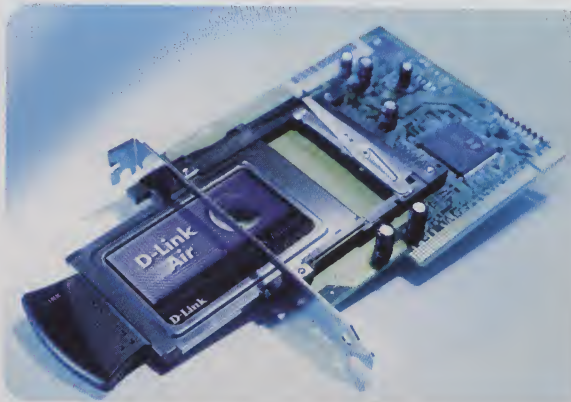
D-LINK DWL-500 WIRELESS
LAN PCI CARD 11MBPS

NETWORKS

Wireless LAN,
Tangled Setup

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR WIRELESS NETWORKING—D-Link Systems' DWL-500 Wireless LAN PCI Card 11Mbps is available now, and it's actually two products in one. The DWL-500 consists of a PCI card that has an onboard socket to accept PC Cards, and a matching PC Card for wireless networking using the IEEE 802.11b wireless standard. You can use the two together in a desktop PC, or unplug the PC Card and use it in your notebook. (The PCI card also works as an adapter for any other PC Card peripherals.) At \$199 direct, the DWL-500 is a good value, but installation can be a problem.

First, although the PCI card fit easily into two of our test systems, the card-release buttons made for a very tight squeeze on an HP Pavilion 8555C. Second,



of the three test systems we used, we were only able to successfully install the PCI card in two. Changing some hardware settings fixed an installation problem in one, but another never did boot with the adapter installed. On the plus side, the documentation was thorough, and D-Link provides a lifetime warranty and free technical support.

Once the card was installed, the wireless network came up immediately using the default settings. We tested a shared Internet connection using both dial-up and cable access, and both worked well. Unfortunately, D-Link does not include any Internet-connection-sharing software, so if you're not running

Windows 98 Second Edition or Windows Me, you'll need a separate sharing program, such as Osit Software's WinProxy.

On our tests, networking performance measured a consistent throughput of 12MB to 15MB per minute (or 1.6Mbps to 2Mbps), well below the 11Mbps theoretical maximum throughput of 802.11b, but more than sufficient for most tasks.

We can't recommend the D-Link DWL-500 to novices because of the potential setup complications. But if you're willing to brave the installation, it offers a relatively inexpensive way to network without wires.

EDITORS' RATING 7.6

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	9
VALUE	8

Reliable performance; doubles as a PC Card adapter for desktops
Setup can be difficult; does not include Internet-connection-sharing software; did not work with all PCs

PRODUCT: D-Link DWL-500 Wireless LAN PCI Card 11Mbps
COMPANY: D-Link Systems Irvine, CA; 800-326-1688
www.dlink.com
DIRECT PRICE: \$199

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—Neil Randall

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MOBILE

HANDSPRING VISOR MODULES

Modular Makeovers

These four expansion modules pump up your Visor's potential, making it a truly protean PDA.

BY RICK BROIDA

IMAGINE INSTANTLY MORPHING YOUR PDA INTO ANY NUMBER OF HIGH-tech gadgets just by plugging in a new hardware cartridge. Idle fantasy? Not if you own a Handspring Visor organizer. Snap an expansion module into its Springboard slot, and the PDA instantly becomes an MP3 player. Another snap, and it's a digital camera. Snap again, a universal remote.

Springboard modules have been a long time coming, but this month we were able to get our hands on four of the latest: Blocks Products' eyemodule digital camera; Good Technology's MP3-capable SoundsGood AudioPlayer; Pacific Neo-Tek's OmniRemote, which transforms a Visor into a programmable remote control; and Xircom's SpringPort Modem 56 GlobalAccess landline modem.

These four devices deliver true plug-and-play operation, enabling you to simply pop one in or snap it out at any time, whether the Visor is on or off. Any related software is loaded, or at least instantly accessible, the moment you insert a module.

Just be sure to keep some extra batteries on hand, because with devices as fun and practical as these, you're likely to burn through cells in a hurry.

BLOCKS PRODUCTS EYEMODULE

EDITORS' RATING 5.8

DESIGN.....9	IMAGE QUALITY.....4
EASE OF USE.....8	PERFORMANCE.....4
FEATURES.....4	

PROS: Compact design; self-timer; time-lapse options
CONS: Low-res photos; no flash

Shutterbugs seeking a tiny digital camera should look no further than the \$149.95 eyemodule from Blocks Products. This handy little device transforms the Visor into a digital camera that can snap both color and gray-scale photos. The device itself is virtually invisible because it installs flush with the back of the Visor and protrudes from the top by a mere half inch.

The eyemodule's CMOS-based fixed-focus lens has a focus range of 18 inches to infinity and can capture images at

resolutions up to 320x240. That's disappointing in this age of multimegapixel cameras, but adequate for photos destined for personal Web pages.

Plug the module into your Visor, and the camera software loads instantly. When in capture mode, the Visor's screen serves as a viewfinder, which is a nice alternative to squinting through a tiny window, but less than ideal because of the gray-scale display. (Although the eyemodule supports Handspring's new color Prism model, the PDA wasn't available for testing at press time.)

The eyemodule software is refreshingly easy to use. It takes just a few taps on the screen to view, name, delete, annotate, categorize, and beam images. Images are stored in JPEG format, and you can specify which photos to transfer to your PC when you synchronize.

The software also includes a 10-second

self-timer and can perform time-lapse photography, which could prove useful in certain settings like a laboratory. The eyemodule has no flash, however, rendering it useful only in well-lit environments. What's more, the Visor's available RAM dictates how many images you can store. Each color photo eats up about 200K.

The camera module comes with an entry-level image-editing and -organization program for Windows. It's a decent tool for novices, but most users will quickly outgrow it.

In fact, most digital-imaging enthusiasts will outgrow the camera itself, because it produces blurry, washed-out photos suitable only for personal projects. That's a shame, because the Blocks



Products eyemodule otherwise has "cool" written all over it.

GOOD TECHNOLOGY SOUNDSGOOD AUDIOPLAYER

EDITORS' RATING 7.4

DESIGN.....8	SOUND QUALITY.....8
FEATURES.....7	VALUE.....5
PERFORMANCE.....9	

PROS: Compact; excellent sound quality; external playback and volume controls

CONS: Expensive; no memory expansion; rudimentary software

A module that's sure to have Visor owners dancing in the streets is Good Technology's SoundsGood AudioPlayer, which in a jiffy turns your handheld into a digital jukebox. This \$269 MP3 player, which will soon add WMA support, has a remarkably compact design and memory to store 1 hour of audio.

Despite its headphone jack, three playback-control buttons, and volume wheel, (continued on page 92)

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(continued from page 88)

the SoundsGood module maintains a slim profile and exceeds the dimensions of the Springboard socket by a mere millimeter.

Unfortunately, you can't add to the module's 64MB of internal RAM. (A competing product, InnoGear's MiniJam, supports up to 128MB via swappable MultiMediaCards, but it's much bulkier.)

The SoundsGood draws power from the Visor's batteries, and Good Technology promises over 10 hours of playback on a single charge, although we achieved only 7.5 hours of playback in testing. Shuttling songs to and from the player couldn't be easier, thanks to the Good Desktop utility. It scans your hard drive for MP3 files, then lets you queue them for installation by drag and drop. Good also supplies the shareware version of MusicMatch Jukebox, a leading MP3 player/recorder app.

It took about 10 minutes to top off the SoundsGood's memory with tunes. The internal software includes familiar playback-control buttons, plus volume and track-scan sliders. A Details button reveals information about the current track, and tapping on Mode lets you choose between four playback patterns, including repeat and shuffle. The player lacks an equalizer, save for treble and bass controls, and you can't customize the track order.

The bundled earbud headphones sounded good, but we enjoyed far superior sound quality from a pair of ear-looping Sony headphones. You might want to check out a few of the handy add-ons such as the \$21 optional cassette adapter to listen to tunes in your car, or the \$39.99 EnergyClip AA battery pack that lets you groove Visor-free.

Though the SoundsGood is more expensive than most Visor attachments and even many stand-alone MP3 players, it's a superbly designed product and a must-have module for music fans.

PACIFIC NEO-TEK OMNIREMOTE

EDITORS' RATING 7.8

DESIGN.....8	PERFORMANCE.....9
EASE OF USE.....5	VALUE.....9
FEATURES.....8	

PROS: Long-range infrared; works with many devices; supports customized control screens, macros, and timers
CONS: Confusing interface; limited documentation



The average 21st-century family room houses a TV set, VCR, DVD player, stereo, and often even more high-tech hardware. This profusion of devices makes for problems when each component

MOBILE

requires its own remote and you've only got two hands and so much space on the coffee

table. If you've got \$400 to drop, you could opt for a high-end, smart, stand-alone device that lets you fuse all your remotes.

The Pacific Neo-Tek OmniRemote is a less costly alternative. This \$59.95 device converts your Visor into a programmable and customizable universal controller.

OmniRemote software has been available for Palm OS units for some time, but it hasn't caught on because of hurdles such as the short, 5-foot range of the Palms' infrared (IR) transceivers and the inconvenient side location of the IR window. This module solves both shortcomings with a top-mounted phaser-strength IR emitter with a range of at least 20 feet. (We stopped testing beyond that distance.)

The module's integrated software comes with predesigned control screens for a television, amplifier, cable box, CD player, and VCR. You can modify these or create your own; the module lets you control up to 15 devices. You can draw buttons of any size, position them anywhere, and label them with text or icons. You can also use the OmniRemote to customize the Visor's hardware buttons.

The OmniRemote makes excellent use of macros. You could create a button that, say, turns off all your equipment. With timers, which let you run macros unattended, you could program the TV to turn itself on as a morning alarm.

The software can be confusing, however, especially when you're designing control screens from scratch and creating macros. And the only documentation provided is a Visor-viewable manual that can't be printed.

Still, once you've mastered its intricacies, you're likely to fall in love with the OmniRemote. The only downside is that your Visor must stay near your equipment. For some, it might be worth it to buy a second Visor for use solely with the OmniRemote.

XIRCOM SPRINGPORT MODEM 56 GLOBALACCESS

EDITORS' RATING 5.8

DESIGN.....5	PERFORMANCE.....7
EASE OF USE.....5	VALUE.....7
FEATURES.....5	

PROS: 56Kbps connection; robust e-mail software
CONS: Expensive; bulky; scant documentation

Forget schlepping a notebook around just to check e-mail and browse the Web. Now you can use your Visor to do both by outfitting it with Xircom's SpringPort Modem 56 GlobalAccess. Though it's perhaps the bulkiest Springboard module we've seen, it's much faster than existing 33.6Kbps Visor modems.

But that extra speed may not be that important for most handheld PC users, unless they download a large volume of e-mail or spend several hours online. What's more, you'll pay roughly \$20 to \$30 more than you would for a 33.6Kbps modem.

From a design standpoint, the SpringPort is somewhat lacking. It's rather large, protruding nearly an inch from the rear of the Visor. This thickness is due to the built-in battery carrier, which holds three AAA cells to power the device. We also had some difficulty snapping the carrier into the modem.

To help you surf, the module comes preloaded with MultiMail Pro II, a full-featured e-mail client and newsgroup reader, and AvantGo, a channel-based content viewer that can double as a Web browser. You can use the SpringPort to send and receive faxes, but you'll need to install third-party software such as Symantec's Mobile WinFax.

Although Xircom provides a brief quick-reference guide that covers the most basic elements of using the modem and software, a more thorough manual would be much more useful. For cell-phone owners, an optional connection kit enables the modem to work with various GSM cell phones.

In our tests, the SpringPort worked perfectly, though it was hard to gauge the actual connection speed.

All told, we think the modem is a bit overpriced and oversized, so you may want to check competitors' offerings before settling on the SpringPort. ▼

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	5.8	7.4	7.8	5.8
PRODUCT	Blocks Products eyemodule	Good Technology SoundsGood AudioPlayer	Pacific Neo-Tek OmniRemote	Xircom SpringPort Modem 56 GlobalAccess
COMPANY	Blocks Products Palo Alto, CA 800-741-9070 www.eyemodule.com	Good Technology Redwood City, CA 866-723-4663 www.good.com	Pacific Neo-Tek Santa Cruz, CA www.pacificneotek.com	Xircom Thousand Oaks, CA 800-438-4526 www.xircom.com
MFR. EST. PRICE	\$149.95	\$269	\$59.95	\$149.99
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HP e-PC Series is packed with powerful, industry-standard PC technology and is one-fifth the size of a traditional desktop PC. Designed for large organizations, HP e-PC Series has all the manageability, stability and security features of HP Vectra Series PC, for effortless deployment and lifecycle management.

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MOBILE

SONY VAIO PCG-SR17K

Light as Air, Fast as Lightning

IT MAY SEEM THAT THERE'S A LAW THAT SAYS ALL NOTEBOOKS MUST LOOK alike, but if there is, no one has told Sony Electronics. The company's \$2,399 VAIO PCG-SR17K is a feast for the eyes with its silver-and-gray shell, purple accents, and curvy chassis. What's more, function follows form very nicely. This PC weighs only 3 pounds, measures just an inch thick, and runs more than 3.5 hours on a single battery charge.

The battery life particularly impresses us, as no other ultralight notebook we've tested has persevered beyond 3 hours. The VAIO performed well on our other benchmark tests, too, thanks to its 700MHz Mobile Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, and S3 Savage/IX graphics accelerator. Despite midrange performance from its spacious 20GB hard drive, the VAIO turned in the top Business Winstone 99 score for notebooks in this class to date, an impressive rating of 32.4.

Still, though the VAIO has power to spare, it targets corporate frequent flyers and not those seeking to replace their desktop system. Its 10.4-inch active-matrix screen is a bit small for some business applications, especially given its 1,024x768 resolution. (Strong eyes are a must.) And as with many ultraportables, the keyboard is a bit narrow, with shallow key travel. You'll get used to it, but you'll probably never like it as much as your desktop keyboard. The touch pad, on the other hand, not only qualifies as a work of art (VAIO purple, with rounded sides and a cool metallic frame), it's also roomy and supported by two large, responsive mouse buttons.

Considering the VAIO's diminutive proportions, it's no surprise that it lacks internal removable-media drives. The optional \$79.99 3.5-inch floppy drive—appreciably compact and lightweight at just 10 ounces—connects to the VAIO's USB port. Sony's optional CD-ROM, CD-RW, and DVD-ROM drives employ PC Card interfaces for use with the VAIO's single Type II PC Card slot.

Among the notebook's other expansion assets, you'll find a Sony i.Link IEEE 1394/FireWire port, a MagicGate Memory Stick slot (great for swapping

data with Memory Stick-capable cameras, camcorders, and MP3 players), headphone and microphone jacks, and a VGA-out port (which requires the use of a bundled adapter). Owing to its legacy-free design, the VAIO lacks parallel, serial, and PS/2 ports—and Sony doesn't offer a dock or a port replicator. The notebook does include an integrated 56Kbps modem.

The VAIO features Sony's innovative Jog Dial control, a programmable wheel used to launch applications and scroll through lengthy documents and Web pages. It's a nice perk, but the software used to customize it is a bit confusing.

Speaking of software, Sony configures the VAIO with either Windows Millennium Edition or Windows 2000

Professional; we tested it with the latter. Sony's software bundle doesn't change based on the OS and includes a good mix of business and multimedia programs. In addition to Microsoft Word 2000 and Quicken Basic 2000, you get Adobe PhotoDeluxe Home Edition, ArcSoft PhotoPrinter 2000 Pro, and a wealth of Sony-branded applications for editing images, music, and video. Its MovieShaker software is a particularly cool tool for assembling clips of digital video into slick films.

The VAIO's speakers sound surprisingly good for a notebook of this size, though music had a slightly hollow quality, with limited bass response. According to Sony, the S3 Savage/IX graphics chipset, backed by 8MB of video memory, supports full-screen video playback, but we didn't have the optional DVD-ROM drive to test it. (Other notebooks we've looked at with similar hardware have played full-screen movies without difficulty.)

Because we tested a preproduction unit, we also didn't have the chance to look at any of Sony's printed documentation or supplemental materials. The VAIO does include a comprehensive online manual.

Less comprehensive is Sony's support plan. After one year, the parts-and-labor warranty expires, as does free telephone support. Fee-based extended plans are available.

All things considered, the Sony VAIO PCG-SR17K is a winner for the corporate go-getter who's always on the road. This VAIO packs power and style into a slim, lightweight package with unparalleled battery life. In an age of cookie-cutter notebooks, it's nice to see one that both innovates and excels.

—Rick Broida

EDITORS' RATING **6.8**

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN.....	7
EASE OF USE.....	7
FEATURES.....	8
PERFORMANCE.....	9
SERVICE AND SUPPORT.....	4
VALUE.....	6

Blazing performance; roomy hard drive; excellent battery life

Narrow keyboard; short warranty; phone support; no floppy or optical drives

SYSTEM:

Sony VAIO PCG-SR17K

COMPANY:Sony Electronics
Park Ridge, NJ; 888-315-7669www.sony.com/pc

AS TESTED: 700MHz SpeedStep Pentium III; 128MB RAM; 20GB hard drive; 10.4-inch TFT LCD; S3 Savage/IX graphics chipset with 8MB SGRAM; V.90 modem; touch pad; Microsoft Word 2000; additional software

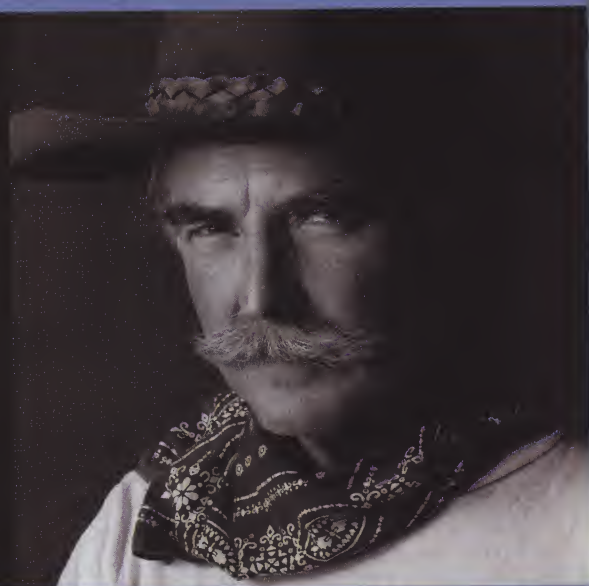
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MOBILE

MICRONPC.COM TRANSPORT GX

A Business Model With Flair and Flaws

A SLEEK NEW NOTEBOOK AIMED AT THE SMALL-BUSINESS AND HOME-office markets, micronpc.com's \$3,787-direct TransPort GX stands out as the most stylish business notebook the company has ever delivered. But if you look beyond its pretty face and outstanding battery life, you'll see a pricey notebook with a dated video chip and some design oddities.

The TransPort GX, powered by a muscular 850MHz Pentium III engine, forgoes the basic black of earlier TransPorts. The curvy outer shell is molded in a slick-looking silver plastic; even the external power supply brick has a rounded, two-tone look. Opening the 14.1-inch screen reveals a dark gray interior that provides a nice visual contrast to the silver, but with an odd golf-ball-dimple texture that doesn't seem to provide any real functionality.

The keyboard has good, deep travel, with comfortable tactile feedback, but the half-size cursor arrows, small page-movement keys, and Fn key where you'd expect to find a Ctrl key are likely to have touch typists fumbling. Also, the page-movement keys are placed along the right side, which uncomfortably separates the Home and End keys.

On the upside, three easily programmable function keys are positioned above the keyboard. The buttons surrounding the Synaptics touch pad are nice and large, but they're flush with the palm rest, making them difficult to find by touch alone.

Between the buttons are two scroll buttons that work well but don't really offer much in the way of added utility over the cursor arrows.

The TransPort GX's 850MHz Pentium III processor delivered a Business Winstone 99 score of 37.1, which means that business applications will zip along. Better yet, battery life was equally impressive, lasting more than 4 hours with the SpeedStep feature slowing the processor to a still-swift 700MHz.

At just over 7 pounds, the TransPort GX is relatively light for the desktop-replacement class. And it's fairly compact for a three-spindle notebook, thanks in large part to the extremely slim floppy drive that sits over the Flex-Bay slot. Our test unit was

equipped with a Toshiba DVD drive in this bay; hot-swappable CD-ROM, Zip 250, and LS-120 SuperDisk drives are available as well. If the removable 20GB hard drive doesn't offer enough storage for your needs, the bay can also hold a second hard drive.

The LCD screen is bright and crisp, but it's supported by a substandard video system. The S3 Savage/IX video chip suffices if you plan to run standard 2D Windows applications at the screen's native 1,024x768 resolution. If you drop to a lower resolution, however, the screen takes on a rough, jagged appearance. Text becomes difficult to read, and graphics are rendered with stair-step edges. If you give presentations on the notebook screen, you'll need to create them for the LCD's native resolution or

they'll look terrible.

The notebook delivers poor 3D performance, although that may not be a great priority to most business users. But those who enjoy gaming during downtime will want to look elsewhere, or they'll face sluggish frame rates and jagged graphics.

DVD playback fares much better. With the bundled InterVideo WinDVD software, the TransPort GX had no

problem keeping up with the fastest action sequences in *The Matrix* and *The Fifth Element*. The notebook has strong sound, with admirable volume for a portable and no distortion even with DVD audio cranked to the limit. Unfortunately, it lacks a dedicated volume control.

An internal Mini-PCI slot offers you the option of equipping the TransPort GX with an internal V.90 modem, a 10/100 Ethernet port, or both. Besides the usual ports, the notebook offers a single USB port; we'd like to have seen one more to better support the abundance of inexpensive USB add-ons available.

The software bundle provides the basics, including Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business and a few hardware-support utilities. It also includes a fairly thorough HTML-based online reference guide. We tested the unit running Windows 2000, but Windows Me is an option. Micron provides an excellent three-year portable-exchange warranty and covers the notebook's memory and CPU for five years. Live toll-free tech support is available 24 hours daily.

Overall, the TransPort GX rates as an average notebook, albeit one with great battery life. But with a price approaching \$4,000, it's reasonable to demand top-notch performance in all areas, and the TransPort GX doesn't deliver that.

—Denny Atkin

EDITORS' RATING **6.0**

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	4
FEATURES	5
PERFORMANCE	5
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	9
VALUE	6

- Fast processor; stylish case; excellent support; hot-swappable storage devices; three-year warranty; relatively lightweight
- Jagged video at lower resolutions; poor 3D performance; odd keyboard layout

SYSTEM:

micronpc.com TransPort GX
COMPANY: micronpc.com

Nampa, ID
888-215-6516, 208-898-3434
www.micronpc.com

AS TESTED: 850MHz Pentium III; 128MB SDRAM; 20GB hard drive; 14.1-inch TFT LCD; Toshiba DVD-ROM drive; S3 Savage/IX chipset with 16MB RAM; V.90 modem; Synaptics touch pad; Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business; additional software

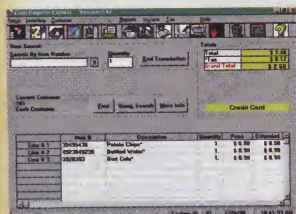
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All PC America Software requires Microsoft Windows. The software was written in Visual Basic using Microsoft Access Files. The source code is available.

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MOBILE**FUJITSU LIFEBOOK S-4542**

An Ultrathin Notebook Decked Out With DVD

WHEN DESIGNING ULTRATHIN NOTEBOOKS, MANY MANUFACTURERS exile the optical drives to external hinterlands to keep the pounds off. But Fujitsu PC Corp. has created a lightweight option that doesn't force you to connect the drives externally. Its \$2,699 LifeBook S-4542 is one of the lightest models we've ever seen to feature a swap bay. That engineering feat makes this 600MHz Pentium III-based system mighty handy, but this sleek unit still weighs a bit more than the lightest models, and its price is also a little high.

With the 8x DVD-ROM drive installed, the LifeBook S-4542 tips the scales at 4.5 pounds and measures nine-tenths of an inch thick. But if you don't need the DVD while traveling, simply pop in the weight-saver module and lose almost a pound. You can take off a few more ounces by leaving the external floppy drive behind, too. The floppy connects via the single USB port on the back of the notebook, or by a proprietary connector in the included port replicator.

The notebook is attractively designed, with a sleek, silver finish and rounded corners—nice, but relatively unassuming compared with some of the more futuristic-looking machines we've seen recently.

Its 12.1-inch TFT display natively supports a resolution of up to 1,024x768, and the Trident graphics subsystem can power an external monitor at up to 1,280x1,024 resolution. The device includes a rather anemic 2.5MB of SDRAM video memory, which was apparent during DVD playback. For the most part, full-screen, full-motion video looked fine, but we did notice a few occasional hiccups along with one or two considerably long blackouts.

Surprisingly, the LifeBook features dual stereo speakers, which is a bit of a luxury for a thin-and-light system. Even so, the notebook's audio quality really wasn't high enough for our tastes.

The S-4542 unit we tested comes standard with 128MB of RAM (expandable to a maximum of 256MB) and a 12GB hard drive. At a price of \$2,699, we expect a little more speed than 600MHz, however.



Even when compared with other similarly configured notebooks, this system achieved a poor showing on our benchmark tests. Its Business Winstone 99 score of 24.9 was a bit underwhelming, and its graphics performance was even less impressive. But its 2,600mAh lithium-ion battery lasted nearly 3 hours during testing, which is longer than the battery life of most systems of similar size.

Speaking of size, the slightly small-scale keyboard is adequate for touch typing, but the layout isn't great. The Backspace key is too small and poorly situated inside the Home key, and the arrow keys aren't placed far enough from the rest of the keys. But in general, the keyboard has a nice feel.

The standard touch pad operates smoothly but doesn't feature any programmable options. The actuation buttons are

large and well-designed, with gentle contours, and we loved the straightforward execution of the four one-touch buttons above the keyboard. Buttons A and B can be easily programmed to launch a specific app or Web page, and the Web and Mail buttons bring up your default browser and e-mail program.

Our test unit shipped with Windows 2000

Professional. The fairly standard software bundle includes Microsoft Works 2000 and McAfee.com ActiveShield.

The system also comes with a BayManager utility that lets you hot-swap removable drives. (We were unable to test this app, however, because it wasn't included with our test unit.)

Connectivity options include a single PC Card slot and USB port, built-in modem and Ethernet ports, and a handy mini-serial port that works with an optional adapter to allow you to connect standard serial-based devices.

Fujitsu backs its notebooks with a standard one-year international parts-and-labor warranty, but you can opt for three years of First Cabin coverage for an additional \$179.90. The Executive Mobile Option provides onsite service for three years for another \$149.85. Tech support is toll-free, but not 24-hour.

If it weren't for that swap bay, the Fujitsu LifeBook S-4542 wouldn't particularly stand out. Its performance is lackluster, and its features seem a little weak considering the price. But in a notebook that measures less than an inch thick and weighs well under 5 pounds, an internal DVD-ROM drive is undeniably a killer luxury.

EDITORS' RATING 6.7

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN.....	8
EASE OF USE.....	7
FEATURES.....	6
PERFORMANCE.....	5
SERVICE AND SUPPORT.....	7
VALUE.....	7

- Swap bay for DVD drive; includes port replicator; good battery life
- Slightly heavy for an ultrathin; inadequate video memory; lackluster performance; somewhat pricey

SYSTEM:

Fujitsu LifeBook S-4542

COMPANY:Fujitsu PC Corp.
Santa Clara, CA
800-831-3183, 408-982-9500www.fujitsupc.com

AS TESTED: 600MHz Pentium III; 128MB 100MHz SDRAM; 12GB hard drive; 12.1-inch TFT LCD; 8x DVD-ROM drive; external USB floppy drive; AC97 audio chipset; Trident graphics subsystem with 2.5MB SDRAM; V.90 modem; touch pad; port replicator; Microsoft Works 2000; additional software

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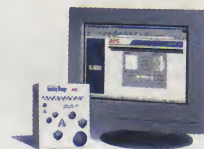
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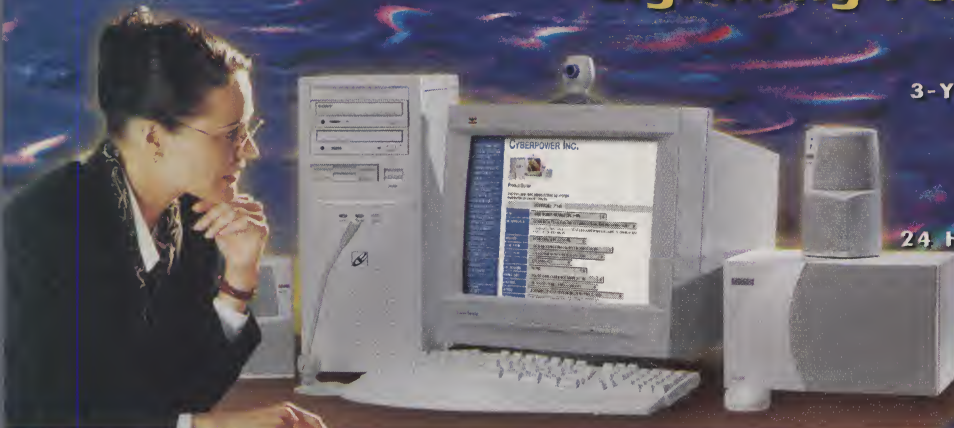


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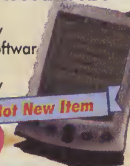


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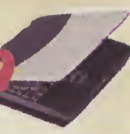


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3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 98

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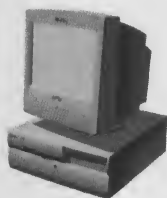


VL400

Small-form-factor model P3722T: Intel Pentium III processor 866 MHz / Intel 815 chipset /
128 MB SDRAM / 10 GB HD / 24x max CD-ROM / Intel Direct 3D integrated video /
3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 98

\$1,299*

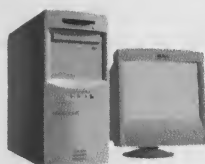




VL400

Desktop model P3719T: Intel Pentium III processor 866 MHz / Intel 815 chipset / 128 MB SDRAM / 10 GB HD / 48x max CD-ROM / Intel Direct 3D integrated video / 3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 98

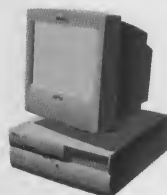
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VL400

Minitower model P3721T: Intel Pentium III processor 866 MHz / Intel 815 chipset / 128 MB SDRAM / 10 GB HD / 48x max CD-ROM / Intel Direct 3D integrated video / 3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 98

\$1,299*



VL800

Desktop model P2074T: Intel Pentium 4 processor 1.56 GHz / Intel i850 chipset / 128 MB Rambus® DRAM / 20 GB HD / 48x max CD-ROM / Matrox® G450 dual-16 MB video / 3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 2000
HP recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business

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SOFTWARE

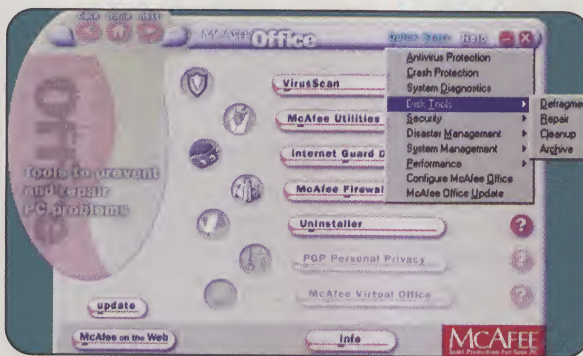
MCAFFEE OFFICE 3.11

More Utilities For the Money

UTILITY ADDICTS WILL FIND WHAT THEY CRAVE in McAfee Office 3.11. Network Associates' latest version of its utility suite incorporates all of the company's most popular utilities—including Internet security features not found in rival Symantec Corp.'s Norton SystemWorks 2001—in a single, moderately priced package.

Each component in McAfee Office is a highly rated product in its own right. McAfee VirusScan successfully detects and fixes viruses, and scans Web downloads and e-mail messages.

UnInstaller lets you remove unneeded files from your system and move applications to another drive or computer. McAfee Utilities (formerly Nuts & Bolts 98) offers more than a dozen programs in four categories: Repair & Recover, Clean & Optimize, Prevent & Protect, and Secure & Manage. McAfee Firewall prevents intruders from hacking into



your system, while Internet Guard Dog Pro removes information about your Web-browsing habits and blocks the transmission of sensitive data.

Inevitably, McAfee Office does some things better than Norton SystemWorks, and some not as well. McAfee's UnInstaller transport, for example, packages applications as self-extracting files that can be installed on any system—an improvement over Norton's transports, which require the SystemWorks program for unpacking. But Office's level of integration is, unfortunately, just as superficial as SystemWorks'. The Office Central screen provides access to all components using a common interface, but the individual programs confront you with a hodgepodge of occasionally overlapping functions. The interfaces also

vary widely, from First Aid's graphical desktop approach to Firewall's stark text window.

Nevertheless, McAfee Office 3.11 is a tinkerer's delight, particularly because the package costs little more than any two of its components purchased separately. Casual users, however, may find its wealth of options to be more than they need or can easily handle.

—Sheldon Leemon

EDITORS' RATING 7.2

RATED 1 TO 10

DIAGNOSING.....	8
EASE OF USE.....	6
INSTALLATION.....	7
SECURITY AND ANTIVIRUS.....	8
SUPPORT AND UPDATES.....	6
VALUE.....	8

+ Comprehensive set of utilities; individual utilities are popular, top-rated packages; moderately priced; single interface accesses all programs

- May be confusing for casual users; superficial integration; overlapping functions

PRODUCT: McAfee Office 3.11

COMPANY: Network Associates
Santa Clara, CA; 800-338-8754
software.mcafee.com

REQUIRES: Pentium-class CPU; 32MB RAM; 137MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, or Me

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$69

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DELOORME STREET ATLAS USA ROAD WARRIOR EDITION

Don't Forget Your Compass

AN OFFSHOOT OF DELOORME'S STREET ATLAS USA 8.0, Street Atlas USA Road Warrior Edition (RWE) is geared for life on the road. Designed specifically for use on notebook PCs in conjunction with a GPS receiver, RWE has several features not found in the standard edition of Street Atlas USA, but it also suffers some new-release jitters.

RWE's goal is to help you navigate from any place in the United States to any other. If you have a GPS receiver, RWE tracks your current position on the street map as a green dot, and the map automatically scrolls to follow your position. Unlike Street Atlas USA 8.0, RWE can orient the map based on your current heading. You can also save multiple routes on a single map.

RWE's most intriguing feature is its support for voice recogni-

tion. RWE accepts voice commands and gives verbal directions, allowing for hands-free operation. Say "What's the next turn?" into the microphone, for example, and the program will speak the turn name, time and distance to the turn, and turn direction.

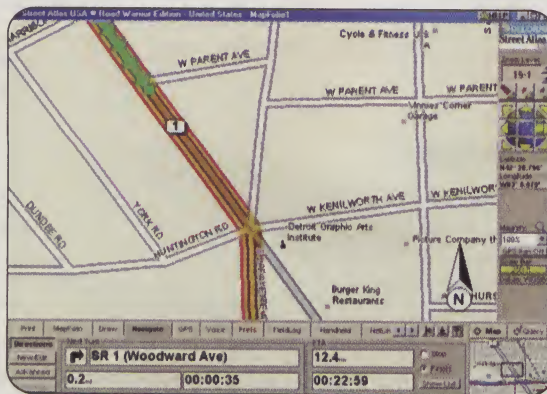
Unfortunately, this feature sounds better than it works. For example, the program would warn us of a turn in 2 minutes when we were just a block away and directed us to turn at intersections where turns were prohibited.

RWE is also missing a few features found in Street Atlas USA 8.0, including the travel/time planner, the ability to calculate the shortest or

most scenic route, and demographic and phone information. Moreover, RWE requires you to install the entire U.S. database (650MB) to use a GPS receiver, rather than just the regions you need.

Despite its solid mapping and routing features, the voice navigation and GPS enhancements clearly need some work. Those looking for street-mapping software should stick with DeLorme's more mature Street Atlas 8.0 until RWE gets on course.

—S.L.



EDITORS' RATING 6.3

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE.....	6
FEATURES.....	7
VALUE.....	6

+ Versatile searching locates by address or business name; voice-recognition feature allows hands-off operation; moves and turns map as you travel (with GPS receiver)

- Spoken directions sometimes misleading; requires large amount of hard drive space; lacks several features from basic product

PRODUCT: DeLorme Street Atlas USA Road Warrior Edition

COMPANY: DeLorme
Yarmouth, ME
800-452-5931, 207-846-7000

REQUIRES: 150MHz or faster processor; 32MB RAM; 270MB hard drive space (390MB recommended); Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$44.95

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HP recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business

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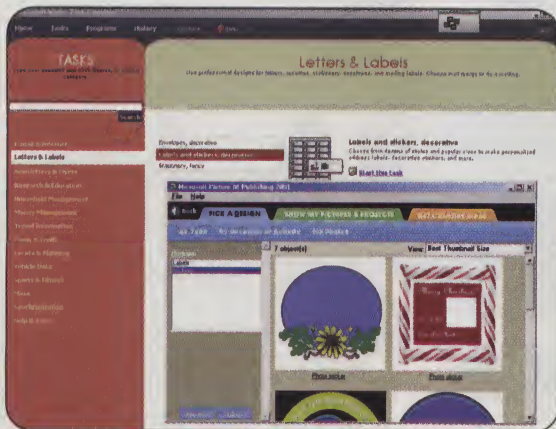
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MICROSOFT WORKS
SUITE 2001

SOFTWARE

Works Suite
Suits Word Fans

NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE BASIC WORKS package from last year's version. The most significant enhancements are found in the Word Processor module, which now offers hyperlink support, AutoCorrect, and wider support for image formats. The \$109-estimated Microsoft Works Suite 2001 requires you to be a licensed user of Works, Word, or WordPerfect. It replaces the Word Processor with the full-featured Word 2000, and includes four new programs, as well as Encarta Encyclopedia Standard 2001, Money 2001, Picture It Publishing 2001, Streets



& Trips 2001, and Works 6.0.

Word 2000 is the suite's headliner. For many users, the Word Processor had always been Works' biggest limitation. It read, and saved in, far fewer file formats than Word, offered only rudimentary character and paragraph formatting, and provided none of Word's configuration options.

Works Suite's new applications include the Quick Tours section; a Format Gallery that helps you with styles and layouts for your Works projects; Phone.com's FoneSync 3.1, which lets you synchronize your contacts with

your cell phone; and Works Portfolio, which lets you gather materials, such as photos, text blocks, and Web pages, for use across all the programs.

Works Suite has a downside, however. A typical install uses 930MB of drive space, takes 40 to 50 minutes, and requires three reboots and four disc changes. If you install Word, you'll also have to install SP-1 (the Office 2000 service pack), which upgrades any installed Office apps to SP-1—a step not all users will appreciate.

Despite the painful installation process, Microsoft Works Suite 2001 can be a terrific value. —*Nell Randall*

EDITORS' RATING **7.0**

RATED 1 TO 10

COMPATIBILITY	5
EASE OF USE	8
FEATURES	7
PRODUCTIVITY	7
VALUE	8

- Excellent price; features Word 2000; Portfolio feature collects frequently used materials; serves as an interface to multiple online and offline resources
- Long, tedious installation process; installing Word can change Office settings; no standard interface

PRODUCT: Microsoft Works Suite 2001
COMPANY: Microsoft Corp. Redmond, WA; 888-218-5617
www.microsoft.com
REQUIRES: 166MHz Pentium-class CPU or faster; 32MB RAM (64MB required for Windows 2000 and Me); 850MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or Me
MFR. EST. PRICE: \$109

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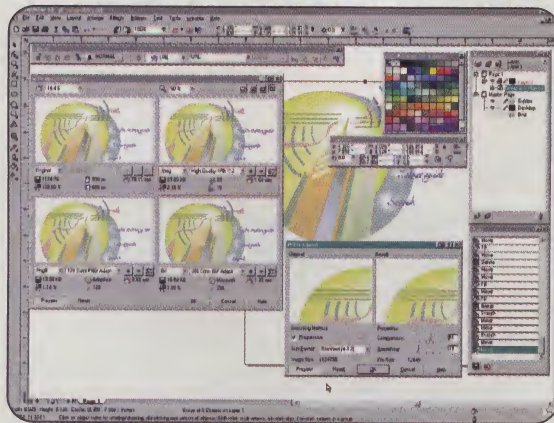
CORELDRAW 10 GRAPHICS SUITE

Better Graphics
Tools for All

IT'S NOT AS EXTENSIVE AN OVERHAUL AS ITS predecessor, but CorelDraw 10 Graphics Suite has many fine additions, including a new vector-animation program, Corel RAVE.

Corel has streamlined the interfaces for CorelDraw and Photo-Paint, and enabled both programs to share the new color-management tools and Export to Web preview dialog box. The color-management feature is wisely designed, showing you exactly how all the device color spaces interact, and making it easy for novices to use profiles by selecting presets optimized for specialized tasks.

Our favorite new item in CorelDraw is the Undo list, a feature usually found in image-editing programs. By preserving your last 20 or so steps, the Undo list offers experimental flexibility that was impossible with the old single Undo command. Photo-Paint's most prominent addition,



meanwhile, is the ability to flow text on a path. Now, when text is modified, it remains editable without losing any attributes, as happened in version 9. Although it still trails Photoshop in the color-correction department, Photo-Paint's infinitely configurable natural-media brushes rival those in Painter and let you add a number of interesting effects.

The newest family member in the CorelDraw suite, Corel RAVE, provides the usual complement of animation functions, including the ability to animate objects along a path, blend objects over time, and add sound to movies. RAVE also lets you export finished documents in SWF (Flash), GIF, AVI, or MOV formats.

On the downside, the suite still can't import Flash files unless they're first converted to AVI or MOV files. We also had problems with disappearing toolbars in CorelDraw and Photo-Paint—an annoying, though not fatal, flaw.

Those gripes aside, CorelDraw 10 Graphics Suite's combination of power and ease of use make it an ideal choice for both casual users and graphics professionals.

—*Susan Gilnert*

EDITORS' RATING **8.7**

RATED 1 TO 10

COMPATIBILITY	9
IMAGE-EDITING TOOLS	9
PRINT GRAPHICS	9
PRODUCTIVITY	9
SCRIPTING	9
VALUE	8
WEB GRAPHICS	8

- Rich variety of graphics tools; streamlined interface; simple color-management tools
- Plug-in tools are slightly buggy; no image slicing; vector-animation tools less powerful than Macromedia Flash

PRODUCT: CorelDraw 10 Graphics Suite
COMPANY: Corel Corp. Ottawa, ON, Canada 800-772-6735
www.corel.com
REQUIRES: 200MHz or faster Pentium-class processor; 64MB RAM (128MB recommended); 160MB hard drive space; Windows 98, 2000, Me, or NT 4.0
MFR. EST. PRICE: \$569.99

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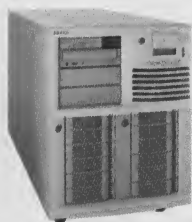
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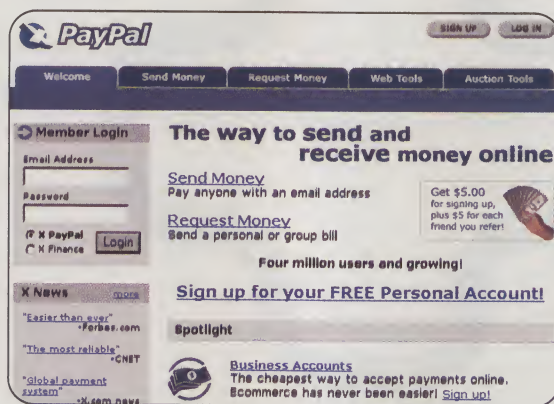
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and a brief message. If an auction or e-commerce site accepts PayPal payments, you'll frequently see a PayPal icon that guides you through a similar process.

If you only shop at the top e-commerce sites, you'll receive little benefit from a PayPal account. But if you participate in auctions, purchase products by e-mail, or need to exchange funds with your online buddies, PayPal is an excellent means of transferring money.

—David English



SNAPFISH

A Snappy Deal
For Shutterbugs

THINGS THAT SOUND TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE usually are. That's why we're so excited about Snapfish, a film-developing and photo-sharing service that's arguably one of the best deals on the Web.

When you mail in a roll of 35mm film (or a disposable camera), the company processes it, mails back prints and negatives, and posts the photos online—all for just \$1.69 per roll to cover shipping.

When you sign up for a Snapfish account—a credit card is required—you're sent postage-paid mailers for your film. Snapfish develops your photos on 3x5- or 4x6-inch Kodak paper, with your choice of glossy or matte finish. You can upgrade to 5x7 prints for \$1.99, or order a second set for \$1.99 more. Relative to photo-lab developing, these are great deals. However, you're limited to 24 rolls over 12 months; if you exceed that limit,

you'll pay an extra \$2.49 per roll. Moreover, if you don't visit your online album within 30 days of notification, you're charged an additional \$3.99.

Once Snapfish receives your film, it takes about a week for the pictures to reach your online album, and another seven to 10 business days for your prints and negatives to arrive. Obviously, this isn't for people in a rush to view their photos. The service doesn't yet support APS, black and white, or slide film.

You can also upload additional digital images to your online albums, invite others to

view them, and order reprints or framed gift photos. One minor gripe is that after uploading some snapshots, our album didn't automatically update; we had to refresh it manually.

In one inexpensive fell swoop, Snapfish accomplishes two goals: printing your pictures and posting them online for shared viewing. If you don't mind the wait, Snapfish is the logical destination for your next roll of film.

—Rick Broida



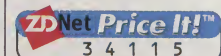
EDITORS' RATING 7.0

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	9
FEATURES	6
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	5
VALUE	8

- Easy to use; free for most purposes; \$5,000 guarantee against fraud
- Limited features unless you link your checking account; online help a bit confusing

SERVICE: PayPal
COMPANY: X.com
Palo Alto, CA; 877-672-9725
www.paypal.com
PRICE: Free (for business accounts, fee of 1.9 percent plus 25 cents per transaction)



For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

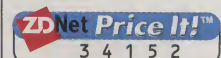
EDITORS' RATING 8.4

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	9
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	8
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
VALUE	10

- Extremely inexpensive; prepaid mailers provided; photos automatically added to online album
- Slow turnaround; only 35mm film supported

SERVICE: Snapfish
COMPANY: Snapfish.com
San Francisco, CA
415-820-3888
www.snapfish.com
DIRECT PRICE: \$1.69 for each roll of film, up to 24 rolls per year; \$4.18 for each roll thereafter



For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.



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20 GB HD / 48x max CD-ROM / 56 Kbps PCI modem / Windows® 98
HP recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business



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COMMAND & CONQUER:
RED ALERT 2The Cold War
Freezes OverEDITORS' RATING **8.6**

Westwood Studios may have missed the mark with Tiberian Sun, the sequel to Command & Conquer, but the company is back in top form with Red Alert 2. This engrossing



real-time strategy game posits an alternate post-World War II era in which the Soviet Union invades America. You can command either side.

Red Alert 2 plays much like previous Command & Conquer titles. The familiar explore/gather/build/attack model is firmly in place, as are the usual rescue/obliterate single-player missions. The game also includes tutorial missions to teach novices the real-time ropes.

Westwood has made some superb tweaks to the interface and gameplay. The tabbed construction bar makes it much easier to find units and structures, and to build more of them simultaneously. The ability to garrison soldiers

GAMES

inside buildings, where they continue to shoot at enemies, also adds a refreshing new strategic element. Of course, Red Alert 2 brims with inventive new units and weapons, all modeled in exquisite detail (as are the terrain and structures).

Once you've conquered the single-player missions, you can engage in randomized skirmishes against the computer, or hop online for live competition. Among Red Alert 2's numerous multiplayer options is an excellent short game that lets you win by destroying all enemy structures. Unfortunately, we couldn't run a LAN game without first installing a patch.

You'll often have trouble seeing your units on the mini-map, especially at higher resolutions. Those gripes aside, Red Alert 2 is a polished, addictive real-time strategy experience for players of all skill levels.

(Westwood Studios; \$49.99 **34151**
www.westwood.com)

—Rick Broida

PANZER GENERAL III:
SCORCHED EARTHRushin' to
The FrontEDITORS' RATING **6.6**

The original Panzer General helped revitalize the stagnant war-game market by providing gameplay that was both challenging and accessible. The latest game in the series, Panzer General

MIDTOWN MADNESS 2

The Trail of Two Cities

EDITORS' RATING **6.8**

Microsoft Corp.'s Midtown Madness was a refreshing alternative to the usual blur of racing games, a freewheeling dash through downtown Chicago in everything from a VW Beetle to a city bus. The sequel, Midtown Madness 2, delivers more of the same giddy action, this time in San Francisco and London.

It's hard to imagine two better locations for this type of game. San Francisco's undulating streets result in Hollywood-style jumps and crashes, and everyone in London seems to be driving on the wrong side of the road. As in the original Midtown Madness, you're free to drive wherever you want: on sidewalks, down alleys, even through buildings.

However, despite the two new cities and 10 additional new vehicles (including an Aston Martin and a fire truck), Midtown Madness 2 offers little in the way of innovation. The game scenarios—checkpoint, circuit, and clock races, plus the noncompetitive Cruise—remain unchanged, save for the new tutorials disguised as "mission modes" (in which you're a Hollywood stunt driver or a London cabbie). Multiplayer races, including the terrific cops-and-robbers challenge, lend the game virtually limitless replay value, but they're the same scenarios as in the first game.

Save for a few tweaks to the graphics engine (including better car-damage modeling), Midtown Madness 2 looks and acts much like its predecessor. It's disappointing, then, that the races take so much longer to load. And though the game is certainly as much fun as the original, it feels rehashed rather than renewed.

(Microsoft Corp. \$44.95 **34133** www.microsoft.com)

—R. B.



MICROSOFT COMBAT FLIGHT SIMULATOR 2: WWII PACIFIC THEATER

The Sky's the Limit

EDITORS' RATING **7.4**

Microsoft Corp.'s second release in its Combat Flight Simulator series takes the battle to the Pacific. If you thought air combat was challenging, get ready for the thrill of landing a damaged Hellcat on a postage-stamp-size aircraft carrier after the dogfight is over.

Virtually every aspect of this simulation has been improved over its European Theater predecessor.

Graphics are spectacular—aircraft display detail down to rivets and exhaust stains, and explosions, smoke, and flying debris further add to the sense of genuineness.

Flight dynamics are complex enough to please hardcore fans, but



several realism settings and an auto-landing feature simplify things for new pilots. The two branching campaigns let you fly for the U.S. or Japanese navies in a variety of fighters, including the Corsair, Wildcat, Zero, and Lightning. Unfortunately, you won't find any flying dive-bombers or torpedo planes.

Enemy pilot artificial intelligence is noticeably better than it was in the first game; with the difficulty level cranked up, computer opponents provide a real challenge. Don't count on much help from your wingmen, though—most can't hit the broadside of a B-24. You can fly with and against other players in multiplayer mode, but the aerial melees get boring quickly, and the game lacks support for flying real missions online.

Unfortunately, the sim is unstable on some systems; we had to swap sound cards to avoid periodic crashes. In every other respect, however, Combat Flight Simulator 2 is a vast improvement over the first release, and it should satisfy trainees and aces alike.

—Denny Atkin
(Microsoft Corp.; \$54.95 **34148**
www.microsoft.com)

III: Scorched Earth, puts you at the Russian Front, where some of WWII's most vicious land battles occurred.

You'll blitz through four campaigns—two each as the Germans and Russians. The new terrain is the primary change from the previous Western Front-themed

Panzer General 3D. The game shares the same quirky 3D interface, which looks good compared to older war games, but it won't impress anyone who's seen a flight sim or 3D shooter in the past five years.

The turn-based gameplay has grown in complexity somewhat since the first Panzer General, thanks to the new experience/promotion scheme that makes managing your commanders a key to victory. At the same time, it's easy to jump into, thanks to intuitive mouse commands, pop-up information about unit statistics, and a well-written tutorial.

New to the series is the Battle Generator, which lets you create randomly generated battles for single-player or multiplayer use. Multiplayer games take forever, however, and the game lacks a play-by-e-mail feature.

Although it's lost a bit of its simplistic charm, Panzer General III is worth a look if you're interested in re-creating historical battles without having to first memorize the 1,000-page *Jane's Armour and Artillery*.

(Mattel Interactive/SSI; \$29.95 **34154**
www.panzergeneraliii.com)

—D. A.

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MT707	17"/16"	1280X1024	0.27	90 Channel	Black	Yes
MT508	15"/13.8"	1024X768	0.28	90 Channel	Beige	Yes
MT507	15"/13.8"	1024X768	0.28	90 Channel	Black	Yes
MT408	14"/13.5"	1024X768	0.28	33 Channel	Beige	No
MT407	14"/13.5"	1024X768	0.28	33 Channel	Black	No

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Upwardly



CONSUMER MIDRANGE
NOTEBOOKS

Mobile

Historically speaking, consumers only bought notebook PCs for use on the move or to accommodate a lack of living space. When it came to price and performance, the cards were clearly stacked in favor of desktop systems. Though that still holds true with regard to price—the five “midrange” portables reviewed here range from about \$2,000 to \$2,400—the gap in performance has narrowed considerably.

All five of these systems—the Compaq Presario 1700, Dell Inspiron 4000, Gateway Solo 5300CL, HP Pavilion N5190, and Toshiba Satellite 2805-S301—offer fast Pentium III processors (starting at 600MHz), 128MB of RAM, robust graphics subsystems (four with impressive 3D capabilities), and roomy 14.1-inch TFT displays. Most also feature DVD drives and great-sounding audio systems.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL MILNE

These five new consumer notebooks let
you make a fashion statement without
paying for it in power or performance.

by Asa Somers

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	Consumer Midrange Notebook PCs
Price Range	\$1,998 to \$2,399
Minimum Configuration	600MHz Pentium III; 128MB RAM; 14.1-inch TFT screen; 6GB hard drive; 24x CD-ROM drive; graphics accelerator with 4MB of memory
Companies Included	Compaq Computer Corp., Dell Computer Corp., Gateway, Hewlett-Packard Co., Toshiba America Information Systems
	HP Pavilion N5190: It didn't have the best benchmark scores or the lowest price, but the Pavilion has all the features you could hope for in this class of notebook, including DVD, built-in Ethernet support, and edge-mounted CD controls.

Equally interesting is how these systems have changed aesthetically. Brushed metallic finishes, clear-plastic or removable translucent color panels, molded corners, sweeping curves, asymmetrical designs: Such elements distinguish this season's design trends in consumer electronics, and the notebooks we evaluated are no exception.

At the same time, manufacturers have

CONSUMER MIDRANGE NOTEBOOKS

been quick to incorporate consumer-oriented features, such as dedicated audio-CD controls, spiffy futuristic "control centers" with rounded buttons, even tiny LCD status panels, typically along the front edge of the notebook. In the case of the HP Pavilion N5190, the unit is designed to play audio CDs even when it is powered down. Buttons providing one-touch access to favorite Web sites or onboard applications have also become fairly standard.

Meanwhile, because USB has finally taken off as a true plug-and-play approach to connecting peripherals, some forward-thinking systems have altogether let go of legacy connectors, such as serial and parallel ports, opting for a couple of USB ports instead.

Although no IT

department is likely to purchase a fleet of futuristic Toshiba Satellite 2805s, which look like Tamagotchis for grown-ups, this batch of midrange notebooks will certainly appeal to mainstream consumers as well as fashion-conscious entrepreneurs.

COMPAQ PRESARIO 1700

EDITORS' RATING 6.2

DESIGN	8	PERFORMANCE	4
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
FEATURES	7	VALUE	5

PROS: Great aesthetics and detailing; excellent DVD playback; programmable touch pad
CONS: Lackluster application, 3D, and gaming performance; comparably small hard drive; only one Type II PC slot; subpar audio



Compaq Presario 1700

Although some manufacturers go too far in attempting to make their consumer-oriented notebooks look futuristic, the Compaq Presario 1700 gets it just right with expert detailing and a slim, elegant design that measures only 1.5 inches thick and weighs less than 6 pounds. Our \$1,998-direct evaluation system came with a

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Compaq Presario 1700	Dell Inspiron 4000	Gateway Solo 5300CL	HP Pavilion N5190	Toshiba Satellite 2805-S301
PRICE AS TESTED	\$1,998 (direct)	\$2,349 (direct)	\$2,378 (direct)	\$2,399 (mfr. est.)	\$2,199 (mfr. est.)
CONFIGURATION					
Processor	600MHz Pentium III	750MHz Pentium III	750MHz Pentium III	700MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III
SDRAM Installed/Maximum	128MB/512MB	128MB/512MB	128MB/256MB	128MB/512MB	128MB/384MB
Dimensions (HWD, Inches)	1.5x12.1x10.4	1.8x12.6x10	1.4x12.5x10.2	1.7x13.1x10.8	1.9x13x11.2
System/Travel Weight (Pounds)	5.9/6.8	6.2/7.2	5.5/6.4	7.2/8.1	7.2/8.3
TFT Screen Size (Diagonal, Inches)	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1
Graphics Accelerator	ATI Rage Mobility-M1	ATI Rage Mobility 128	S3 Savage/IX	S3 Savage/IX	S3 Savage/IX
Onboard SGRAM	8MB	8MB	8MB	4MB	8MB
Hard Drive Size/Manufacturer/Rated Speed	6GB/multiple/4,200 rpm	10GB/IBM/4,200 rpm	10GB/IBM/4,200 rpm	10GB/multiple/4,200 rpm	10GB/Toshiba/4,200 rpm
Number of Hard Drives	One	One	One	One	One
Maximum Number of Hard Drives	One	Two	Two	One	One
CD-ROM Drive	None	24x	24x	None	None
DVD-ROM Drive	8x	Optional (\$149)	Optional (\$150)	8x	8x
Audio Chipset	ESS PCI Audio	ESS Maestro 3E	ESS ES1980 Maestro 3	16-bit Sound Blaster	Yamaha YMF754B-R
Built-In Ethernet Adapter	Optional	Optional	No	Yes	Yes
Hot-Swappable Drives	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (fixed drives)	No (fixed drives)
Ports	Parallel, S-Video out, two USB, VGA	Parallel, serial, PS/2, S-Video out, IrDA, USB, VGA	Parallel, serial, PS/2, USB, composite-video out, VGA	Parallel, serial, PS/2, Fast IR, composite-video out, two USB	Parallel, PS/2, two USB, composite-video out, VGA
Port-Replicator Price	\$129	\$199	\$149	\$169	NA
Operating System	Windows Me 4.90.3000	Windows Me 4.90.3000	Windows Me 4.90.3000	Windows Me 4.90.3000	Windows Me 4.90.3000
SOFTWARE INCLUDED					
	McAfee VirusScan, Microsoft Money 2000, Microsoft Windows Media Player, Microsoft Works 2000, RioPort Audio Manager, Microsoft Word 2000	Microsoft Works Suite 2000, Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Works Suite 2000	Microsoft Money 2000, Microsoft Works 2000, Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0, Quicken Basic 2000, Quicklink III Fax Software, MusicMatch MP3 Player, Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0, Microsoft Outlook Express, McAfee VirusScan	Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mediamatics DVD Express, Toshiba Custom Utilities, Toshiba VirtualTech
SERVICE AND SUPPORT					
Standard Warranty on Parts and Labor	One year	One year	One year	One year	One year
Live Toll-Free Tech-Support Hours	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily
Onsite Service	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (optional)

NA = Not applicable

CONSUMER MIDRANGE
NOTEBOOKS

600MHz Pentium III processor and a 6GB hard drive, both of which seem meager compared to the other systems we tested. The Presario's 3D-graphics and gaming performance also lagged behind the others: The notebook generated only 16.9 frames per second (fps) on our Quake III demo.

On the other hand, full-motion DVD video looked incredible on the system's gorgeous 14.1-inch TFT display. The Presario's audio quality doesn't match its impressive visuals, however. At top volume, which wasn't all that loud, the speakers seemed to occasionally buzz or vibrate.

Our system included swappable floppy and 8x DVD-ROM drives, which gave it a weight advantage over fixed three-drive systems. You can hot-swap drives in the single multimedia bay with ease, thanks to a proprietary utility located on the Windows taskbar.

The fully programmable touch pad offers smooth operation, and the special four-way scrolling button is a useful addition. A row of programmable buttons above the keyboard provides one-touch access to your favorite Web site or e-mail application, and a music button brings up your default media player with dedicated buttons to control volume levels.

The Presario's forward-thinking design forgoes a serial port. Instead, the unit provides dual USB connectors, an S-Video output, and an expansion port on its underside. The system has only one Type II PC Card slot, which may limit your connectivity options because there's no internal Ethernet adapter (a \$119 option).

Compaq bundles the Presario 1700 with Microsoft Works and McAfee VirusScan, as well as a great collection of proprietary help and troubleshooting utilities. The company backs the system with a standard one-year warranty, which can be upgraded to three years for an additional \$99.

DELL INSPIRON 4000

EDITORS' RATING 7.0

DESIGN	6	PERFORMANCE	8
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	6	VALUE	7

PROS: Blazing application performance; impressive 3D performance; lightweight; proven service and support

CONS: Uninspired design; comparably short battery life; few convenience features; quirky volume controls

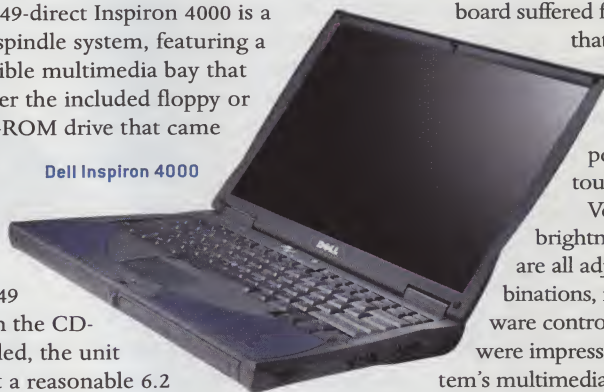
What the Dell Inspiron 4000 may lack in amenities—dedicated CD controls, programmable Internet keys, and high-quality stereo sound—it makes up in power, with a 750MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of RAM, and an ATI Rage Mobility 128 graphics subsystem with 8MB of video memory.

That power was reflected in the Inspiron's chart-topping benchmark scores. The only downside is the system's comparably short battery life of about 2 hours and 35 minutes on a single charge.

The \$2,349-direct Inspiron 4000 is a classic two-spindle system, featuring a front-accessible multimedia bay that accepts either the included floppy or the 24x CD-ROM drive that came with our system.

(You can upgrade to a DVD drive for \$149 more.) With the CD-ROM installed, the unit weighs in at a reasonable 6.2 pounds. The drives are hot-swappable, and you can also run the floppy

Dell Inspiron 4000



externally, via the included cable that connects to the unit's parallel port.

Although we appreciated the notebook's bright 14.1-inch LCD, we were less than dazzled by its keyboard. The keys are laid out in the preferred fashion, with a full-size Backspace key and arrow keys set well apart from the rest. But we found the entire key-

board suffered from the lifeless feel that afflicts many laptop keyboards.

The Inspiron does feature both a pointing stick and a touch pad, however.

Volume, mute, brightness, and contrast are all adjusted via key combinations, not dedicated hardware controls. Nevertheless, we were impressed with the system's multimedia capabilities.

Although the lack of a DVD drive prevented us from testing the Inspiron's video playback,

Crusoe: It Keeps Going and Going

For months before its official unveiling in January 2000, Transmeta Corp.'s power-thrifty mobile CPU, Crusoe, was making waves as a threat to Intel Corp.'s dominance of the industry. Now, Crusoe is finally here—first in an ultraportable device from Sony Electronics, and soon in a number of other lightweight systems.

Sony's 2.2-pound VAIO PictureBook costs \$2,300 and differentiates itself from other ultraportables with its built-in digital camera and 8.9-inch wide-screen LCD panel. NEC Computers and Hitachi have released their Flora 220TX and LaVie MX models, respectively, in Japan. Fujitsu has also demonstrated a Crusoe-based system, and Via has announced it will use the Transmeta chip in its wearable PC.

Because the Crusoe uses Very Long Instruction Word (VLIW) architecture rather than the RISC architecture of x86 chips, all Windows operations must first be code-morphed into language the processor can understand. This extra processing step translates into lackluster benchmark test scores. But the real story here is battery life. For users who value long battery life over multimedia performance, the processor may indeed be a good fit.

"The trade-off is battery life versus

processor speed, which is the usual trade-off in notebook design," says Steve Leibson, chief analyst and editor in chief of *Microprocessor Report*. "For those who want to run Quake at 100 frames per second, this is not their path. But if you want your laptop to work like a cell phone—use it on battery all day and charge it at night—and don't want to do anything other than Microsoft Office, this technology could be killer."

Transmeta argues that standard x86 benchmark tests miss the point. Crusoe is so focused on battery life that processing speed becomes much less of an issue. "I think [Transmeta may] kick off an entirely new category of notebook," says Leibson, "perhaps called Extended Battery Life notebooks."

But does the processor actually deliver on its promises? "The claim from Transmeta is 10 hours," Leibson says. "I think Crusoe can go that long in some applications. If you're playing DVDs, though, I think it'll go five."

Other analysts, though, aren't quite so optimistic. "[Transmeta's] claim that Crusoe will help battery life is valid," says Mike Feibus, principal analyst at Mercury Research. "But some of their earlier usage claims verge on the ridiculous."

Nonetheless, Intel has definitely taken notice, recently announcing it would be rolling out a line of lower-power Pentium chips early next year. "Transmeta has succeeded beyond its wildest dreams in getting Intel's attention," says Leibson.



**CONSUMER MIDRANGE
NOTEBOOKS**

the unit soared on our Quake III test, delivering a full 33 fps—better than full-motion video. The system's audio was acceptable, though it lacked enough volume for our tastes. Still, video mavens will appreciate the inclusion of an S-Video output on the right side of the case.

Dell backs the Inspiron 4000 with a one-year warranty that includes next-business-day onsite service; an additional two years costs \$149.

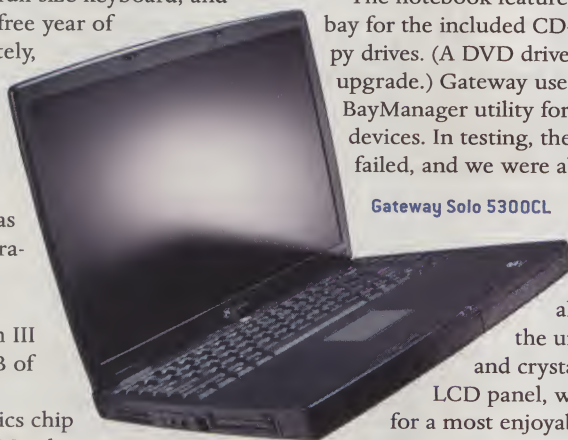
GATEWAY SOLO 5300CL**EDITORS' RATING 7.0**

DESIGN 8 PERFORMANCE 7
EASE OF USE 7 SERVICE AND SUPPORT 7
FEATURES 7 VALUE 6

PROS: Slim, lightweight design; long battery life; full-size keyboard
CONS: No dedicated Internet keys or audio controls; sparse electronic documentation

At first glance, the Gateway Solo 5300CL looks like a dream come true: Not only is it svelte (1.4 inches thick) and light (5.5 pounds), but it has a fast processor, a full-size keyboard, and comes with one free year of AOL. Unfortunately, the Solo's performance falls slightly short of that initial impression.

Although it has a similar configuration to the Dell Inspiron 4000—a 750MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of RAM, and an S3 Savage/IX graphics chip with 8MB of RAM—the

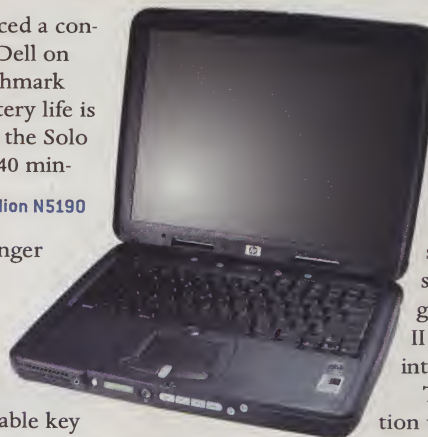


Gateway Solo 5300CL

\$2,378-direct Solo placed a consistent second to the Dell on nearly all of our benchmark tests. Still, if long battery life is what you really need, the Solo delivers: 3 hours and 40 minutes on a single charge, more than an hour longer than the Inspiron.

The Solo also has one of the best keyboards we've seen, with a comfortable full-size layout, charitable key travel, and keys that make a reassuring click when pressed. The notebook's standard touch pad provides excellent response as well, and uses Synaptics' first-rate utility to provide programmable tap zones and scrolling options. However, you won't find any dedicated Internet keys or external audio controls.

The notebook features a single swap bay for the included CD-ROM and floppy drives. (A DVD drive is a \$150 upgrade.) Gateway uses Softex's BayManager utility for hot-swapping devices. In testing, the utility never failed, and we were able to swap the drives without a hitch in about 30 seconds. We were also pleased with the unit's clean sound and crystal-clear 14.1-inch LCD panel, which combined for a most enjoyable multimedia experience.



HP Pavilion N5190

The notebook's lithium-ion battery is easily accessible and features a special smart-battery button that displays the battery-charge status when pressed. Connectivity and expansion options are relatively standard, including a single USB port, stacked Type II PC Card slots, and an internal 56Kbps modem.

The paper documentation was excellent, but the electronic documentation was surprisingly sparse. Gateway backs the system with a standard one-year parts-and-labor warranty, and excellent phone and Web-based support.

HP PAVILION N5190**EDITORS' RATING 7.3**

DESIGN 8 PERFORMANCE 6
EASE OF USE 7 SERVICE AND SUPPORT 7
FEATURES 9 VALUE 7

PROS: External audio-CD controls; composite-video-out and dual USB ports; smart design; great audio and video performance
CONS: Somewhat heavy; mediocre application performance; no electronic documentation



Smooth, rounded edges and a two-tone matte metallic finish provide a contemporary look for the \$2,399-estimated HP Pavilion N5190. This solid 7.2-pound model also offers a number of flexible features that make it a worthy choice for families, students, and small-business users.

Our test unit was based on a 700MHz Pentium III processor and included both an internal 56Kbps modem and built-in Ethernet support. DVD playback looked great on the Pavilion's bright 14.1-inch display, and gamers will also appreciate the high frame rates and deep colors provided by the S3 Savage/IX graphics chip. We didn't even feel deprived by the system's 4MB of video RAM, although its Business Graphics WinMark 99 test scores reflected the meager memory amount.

One of the Pavilion's best features is its wide, comfortable keyboard,

< BENCHMARK RESULTS >

	Compaq Presario 1700	Dell Inspiron 4000	Gateway Solo 5300CL	HP Pavilion N5190	Toshiba Satellite 2805-S301
PROCESSOR TYPE	600MHz Pentium III	750MHz Pentium III	750MHz Pentium III	700MHz Pentium III	650MHz Pentium III
SYSTEM MEMORY	128MB	128MB	128MB	128MB	128MB
APPLICATION PERFORMANCE					
Business Winstone 2001	20.9	26.8	25.9	23.8	24.3
Business Winstone 99	22.2	26.1	24.6	23.7	24.0
GRAPHICS SUBSYSTEM					
Business Graphics WinMark 99	150	295	195	160	187
3D WinMark 2000 640x480 @ 16-Bit	18.5	54.3	45.3	40.5	36.2
DISK SUBSYSTEM					
Business Disk WinMark 99	2,260	2,780	2,570	2,460	2,560
BatteryMark 4.0 (Hours:Minutes)	2:39	2:35	3:40	2:45	2:43

All tests performed at the notebook's native resolution at 16-bit color except where noted.

HIGHER SCORES ARE BETTER

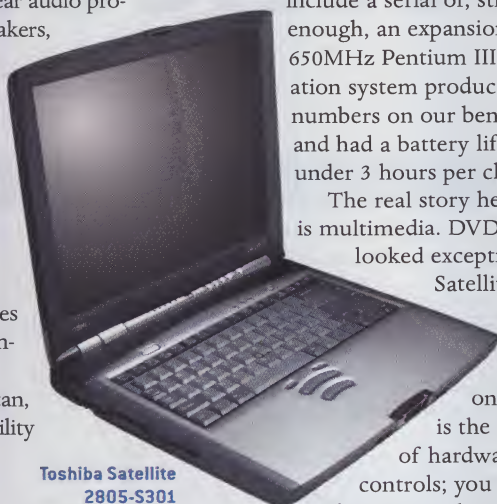
**CONSUMER MIDRANGE
NOTEBOOKS**

which delivers superb key travel. The Synaptics touch pad, too, offers many advanced programmable features, as well as a special scroll button located between the right- and left-click buttons, and a helpful control that renders the touch pad inactive so you can't accidentally activate it when typing.

We also adored the dedicated audio-CD buttons—backlit controls for play/pause, forward/back skip, and volume up/down—located on the front of the system. A separate sliding power control lets you use the drive as a CD player even when the system is powered down. With the rich, clear audio produced by the Polk stereo speakers, we really took advantage of that option.

Although the Pavilion ships with a convenient quick-setup guide and straightforward user's manual, we were surprised that these and other help documents weren't available electronically. Nevertheless, it does have a generous software bundle that includes Microsoft Works 2000, McAfee VirusScan, Quicken Basic 2000, and a utility called OneTouch that lets you program the four dedicated Internet buttons located above the keyboard.

If you're looking for a notebook with more brains than brawn, the intelligently designed Pavilion N5190 could be for you.



**Toshiba Satellite
2805-S301**

(located on the hinge of the display), Toshiba's Satellite 2805-S301 makes a great first impression. The notebook backs up those good looks with powerful video and audio capabilities.

The \$2,199-estimated Satellite is a three-spindle device with a 10GB hard drive and fixed DVD and floppy drives. It also includes an internal Ethernet adapter and a built-in 56Kbps modem. Dual USB ports and stacked PC Card slots with spring-release protective doors round out the connectivity options, which do not include a serial or, strangely enough, an expansion port. Our 650MHz Pentium III-based evaluation system produced solid numbers on our benchmark tests and had a battery life of just under 3 hours per charge.

The real story here, however, is multimedia. DVD movies looked exceptional on the Satellite's wide 14.1-inch TFT screen. The only downside is the screen's lack of hardware brightness controls; you can only adjust screen luminance through software, which can be a hassle. The notebook's front-firing subwoofer and stereo speakers, located above the keyboard under a black grille, combined to deliver some of the richest sound we've ever heard from a notebook. And the hardware volume control, a small wheel on the right-hand side, lets you crank up the audio way past normal levels.

We weren't crazy about the pointing device, however. It's one of those pencil-eraser-style pointing sticks, and the actuation buttons in the center of the wide wrist rest are too small and stiff. Moreover, despite the Satellite's fashionable appearance, it's not lightweight by any means:

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The notebook weighs in at 7.2 pounds on its own (8.3 pounds with its AC adapter). Our unit didn't ship with the standard paper documentation, but the electronic help and support files were excellent.

Toshiba backs the Satellite with 24-hour toll-free technical support and a one-year parts-and-labor warranty, although you can purchase additional coverage as an option.

CARRY ON

Each of these notebooks has its own strengths. The Satellite is a great bargain, the Inspiron offers blazing speed, and the Solo gets plenty of battery life from a single charge. The Pavilion features lots of cool design extras, and the Presario has the best overall look. But they all have one thing in common: To a greater or lesser degree, they all have put contemporary iMac-style aesthetics into practice.

Every one of these systems is as much a fashion statement as a personal-productivity device, and we're pleased to say that, in most cases, form follows function. Dedicated audio-CD controls, streamlined connectivity options, and one-touch Internet buttons are just some of the design elements that set this year's models apart. And with 128MB of RAM, processors of at least 600MHz, and robust 2D and 3D graphics subsystems under the hood, they should be able to muscle through most mainstream computing tasks for quite a while. ▼

TOSHIBA SATELLITE 2805-S301**EDITORS' RATING 7.0**

DESIGN	6	PERFORMANCE	7
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
FEATURES	8	VALUE	7

PROS: Excellent audio and video; external CD controls; reasonable price; modem and Ethernet connections

CONS: Heavy; awkward pointing device; fixed floppy and DVD drives

With its sleek silver-matte finish, dark-gray metallic accents, and dedicated audio-CD controls

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	6.2	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.0
SYSTEM	Compaq Presario 1700	Dell Inspiron 4000	Gateway Solo 5300CL	HP Pavilion N5190	Toshiba Satellite 2805-S301
COMPANY	Compaq Computer Corp. Houston, TX 800-345-1518, 281-370-0670 www.compaq.com	Dell Computer Corp. Round Rock, TX 800-917-3355 www.dell.com	Gateway San Diego, CA 800-315-2536, 605-232-2000 www.gateway.com	Hewlett-Packard Co. Palo Alto, CA 800-752-0900, 970-635-1000 www.hp.com	Toshiba America Information Systems Irvine, CA 800-867-4422 computers.toshiba.com
PRICE	\$1,998 (direct) 34117	\$2,349 (direct) 34118	\$2,378 (direct) 34119	\$2,399 (mfr. est.) 34120	\$2,199 (mfr. est.) 34121

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$25/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$41/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

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**In photography,
image is everything.
If you want the sharpest
digital photos possible, aim
for a 3-megapixel camera.**

Introduction by Lori Grunin

Reviews by Bruce Brown, Marge Brown, and Jay Munro

A picture may be worth 1,000 words, but is it worth \$1,000? That's the first decision you have to make when shopping for a 3-megapixel digital camera. Sure, you can find good 3-megapixel models priced at about \$800, but those generally cut back on the accessories to hit that price point—usually by including a skimpy 8MB media card or not supplying rechargeable batteries. Once you factor in the price of a larger memory card—typically \$50 to \$75 for 32MB—and then tack on tax and shipping charges, you've come close to hitting a grand.

If your budget won't stretch that far, you can find a good 2-megapixel unit for about \$200 less than its 3-megapixel counterpart. Furthermore, depending on how you'll use the images, you may not discern a difference between the 2-megapixel and 3-megapixel models. (For some good 2-megapixel alternatives, see the sidebar "Twos to Choose.")

On the other hand, if price is no object, you may want to consider the Olympus Camedia E-10, a 4-megapixel SLR camera, which was expected to ship as we went to press for an estimated price of about \$1,800. One of the growing number of digital SLRs targeted at expe-

rienced users, the only thing the E-10 lacks is an interchangeable lens system. Instead, these models use lenses designed specifically for digital cameras, which require a greater capacity to disperse the light across the sensor than a traditional camera does.

How do you know whether or not to spend the extra bucks for more pixels? A good rule of thumb: If you plan to print your photos at 5x7 inches or larger, you'll get sharper images with the higher-resolution camera. Bear in mind that a 2-megapixel photo can still look more pleasing than a 3-megapixel image. You may prefer the better

color saturation obtained by a particular 2-megapixel model over the sharper image but more understated colors produced by a particular 3-megapixel model. Just remember: You can always increase the saturation on bland colors, but you can't get sharper images from a low-resolution file. When in doubt, opt for more pixels.

At least you usually get a robust set of features for your money with a 3-megapixel camera. All five of the cameras we look at here—the Nikon Coolpix 880, Olympus C-3030 Zoom, Ricoh RDC-7, Sony Digital Cyber-shot DSC-S70, and Toshiba PDR-M70—have zoom lenses and video-capture capability. But pay attention to how features are implemented. If you plan to take lots of close-ups, for instance, look for a camera with an exceptionally small macro focus distance. Also, avoid arcane or annoying menu systems. If getting to the features is too convoluted a process, you won't use them.

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	3-Megapixel Digital Still Cameras
Price Range	\$749 to \$999
Minimum Configuration	3-megapixel digital camera with USB connection; 2.5x optical zoom; video-capture capability; 8MB of included memory storage
Companies Included	Nikon, Olympus America, Ricoh Corp., Sony Electronics, Toshiba America



NIKON COOLPIX 880

EDITORS' RATING **6.7**

DESIGN	6	IMAGE QUALITY	8
EASE OF USE	7	PERFORMANCE	7
FEATURES	7	VALUE	5

PROS: Lots of image-control options; very good image quality; comfortable to hold

CONS: Only 8MB of CompactFlash memory included; no AC adapter; no audio-capture capability; lens cap can jam lens if you forget to remove it

Nikon's pedigree of building cameras for professional photographers is clear in the \$799-estimated Coolpix 880. Although it lacks a rechargeable battery and an AC power supply, experienced users and hobbyists won't run out of camera before they run out of ideas.

In full automatic-exposure mode, the Coolpix is a basic point-and-shoot camera anyone can use. But because most point-and-shoot units can be fooled by various lighting conditions, Nikon provides 11 preset scene modes—such as fireworks, sunsets, night

3-MEGAPIXEL
DIGITAL CAMERAS

landscapes, and snow/beach scenes—that let you easily bag the pictures you want.

The Coolpix, like most 3-megapixel cameras, offers a variety of white-balance presets, and the manual white-balance control lets advanced users put a white or gray card in the scene, point the camera at it, and get the perfect setting. The Coolpix also helps photographers nail difficult shots with its four metering modes.

The Nikon software operates from a single install screen with an Explorer-like interface that lets you view, print, or copy the images. The software documentation, which comes on a separate CD, is as comprehensive as the printed manual is for the camera.

Note that the tight-fitting lens cap must

be removed before you turn on the camera; if not, the lens jams against the cap, making it difficult to remove and potentially damaging the lens. Also, most of the critical accessories are optional. For instance, the rechargeable battery and its charger cost approximately \$100 extra. Moreover, the included 8MB Lexar digital-film card holds just five shots at the camera's highest resolution with compression and none uncompressed.

Still, the Nikon Coolpix 880 has a lot going for it. We wish the rechargeable battery was included, but this camera nonetheless ranks high for getting the job done.

OLYMPUS C-3030 ZOOM

EDITORS' RATING **7.5**

DESIGN	8	IMAGE QUALITY	8
EASE OF USE	6	PERFORMANCE	8
FEATURES	8	VALUE	7

PROS: Excellent image quality; rugged design; supports lens and flash accessories; generous software bundle

CONS: Can't change batteries when camera is mounted on a tripod; confusing menu system; no strap for lens cap

Once you view the excellent image quality and abundant feature set of the Olympus C-3030 Zoom, you won't want to put the camera down. The \$999-estimated C-3030 also offers a solid design and a high level of control over image settings.

Outdoor shots produced properly exposed

Twos to Choose

If your budget can't accommodate a 3-megapixel camera, or if you can get by with lower-resolution images, consider one of these 2-megapixel models.

(For full reviews of these and other 2-megapixel—and 3-megapixel—digicams, go to www.zdnet.com/special/filters/sc/camera.)


Canon
PowerShot S100 Digital Elph

Canon Computer Systems
Costa Mesa, CA
800-652-2666
www.ccsi.canon.com

Average Price: \$583

34140

Weight: 7.8 ounces
Storage: CompactFlash Type I, 8MB
LCD Size: 1.5 inches

The PowerShot S100 is small, but you give up some of the ease of use and image quality you'd expect in a 2-megapixel camera. It's best for students, families, and small businesses, but enthusiasts won't like the limitations.


Epson
PhotoPC 850Z

Epson America
Torrance, CA
800-873-7766
www.epson.com

Average Price: \$668

34141

Weight: 1.21 pounds
Storage: CompactFlash Type I and II, 8MB
LCD Size: 2 inches

This camera is for advanced users who don't need the absolute highest resolution. It has versatile settings and supports add-on lenses and accessories. Image quality isn't stunning, but the 850Z produces fine detail in macro and flash modes.


Fujifilm
FinePix 4700 Zoom

Fuji Photo Film U.S.A.
Elmsford, NY
800-800-3854
www.fujifilm.com

Average Price: \$703

34142

Weight: 10.8 ounces
Storage: SmartMedia, 16MB
LCD Size: 2 inches

The FinePix 4700 Zoom packs a multitude of easy-to-use controls and captures exceptionally sharp video. But poor image quality under indoor lighting conditions hampers this camera, which does its best work outdoors.


Kodak
DC290 Zoom

Eastman Kodak Co.
Rochester, NY
800-242-2424
www.kodak.com

Average Price: \$598

34143

Weight: 15 ounces
Storage: CompactFlash Type I, 20MB
LCD Size: 2 inches

Families and business users should seriously consider the DC290 Zoom. It delivers a broad range of features and above-average image quality. However, most hobbyists will probably still prefer a true 3-megapixel camera.

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images with accurate color and sharp focus. Similarly, outdoor macro shots at the minimum-rated distance yielded good color and focus, as did indoor macro shots, although the latter were a bit overexposed. The flash fully illuminated the subject at a distance approximately 2 feet short of its maximum-rated distance. The camera's spot-metering feature (a technique for measuring the brightness of specific subjects in a scene) also produced superbly well-focused images with accurate color in uneven indoor and outdoor lighting.

We timed the C-3030's startup at an impressive 3 seconds. In burst mode at super-high quality with no flash, we captured five shots in 4 seconds, which was also above average. The camera's video-capture quality rates a little better than average for a digital camera, though it's still not camcorder-quality.

The C-3030's color-coded controls are easy to follow, and some are particularly efficient, such as the flash and spot/macro buttons. However, framing panorama shots with the C-3030 isn't nearly as simple: The LCD displays gridlines, not multiple images, for checking overlap. Also, when using a tripod, you need to make sure your batteries are fully charged, because you can't change them without removing the camera from the mount.

The C-3030's menu system is our least

3-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERAS

favorite feature, particularly for its indiscriminate use of text and icons. Moreover, some settings, such as all-frame deletion, require you to navigate through an unreasonable number of menu levels.

Still, the 15-ounce Olympus C-3030 Zoom is a powerful camera that is both rugged and lightweight. With its generous software bundle and high-quality images, the camera is an appropriate choice for small businesses and serious amateurs.

RICOH RDC-7

EDITORS' RATING 6.2			
DESIGN	7	IMAGE QUALITY	6
EASE OF USE	8	PERFORMANCE	5
FEATURES	5	VALUE	6
PROS: Tight macro focus; multiple recording modes; 7-megapixel interpolation mode			
CONS: Poor software implementation; mediocre documentation; proprietary TIFF format			

Ricoh has equipped its \$799.99-direct RDC-7 with a number of features designed to appeal to enthusiasts and professionals, including a Pro mode that interpolates output resolution up to 7 megapixels, a zoom lens equivalent to a 35mm-to-105mm focal length on a 35mm camera, and a Movie

mode for creating digital video clips. Still, the camera's overall image quality ranks just above average. Factor in its unintuitive software and poor documentation, and it makes for a tough buying decision.

The up-front controls let you choose options without endlessly wading through menus. The LCD screen flips up to reveal a keypad for menu navigation, macro focus image deletion, white balance, and exposure correction. Just as convenient are the top-mounted buttons to set the image quality, flash mode, self-timer, and memory selection (SmartMedia card or internal 8MB memory). We also liked the macro mode's ability to shoot down to a quarter of an inch—closer than most digital cameras.

The RDC-7 can record multiple frames, time lapse, movies with sound, sound alone, or still images with sound, the last being a great way to annotate your vacation shots. All still images are stored as JPEG files or, if enough memory is available, as uncompressed TIFF files. However, it's a proprietary TIFF format that can only be opened with the included image-editing software.

The camera bundles its image-transfer utility and some enjoyable imaging software on CD, but you need to manually install the applications. Also, the tedious image-transfer



Nikon Coolpix 800

Nikon
Melville, NY
800-645-6689
www.nikonusa.com

Average Price: \$506

Weight: 13 ounces
Storage: CompactFlash Type I, 8MB
LCD Size: 1.8 inches

The Coolpix 800 produces better-than-average images and features well-marked controls and menus. Although it lacks some of the advanced features professionals demand, it is a great choice for most users.



Olympus D-490 Zoom

Olympus America
Melville, NY
877-337-1507
www.olympusamerica.com

Average Price: \$472

Weight: 13 ounces
Storage: SmartMedia, 8MB
LCD Size: 1.8 inches

Built for portability, the D-490 Zoom packs a powerful zoom lens and decent resolution. Image quality is above-average overall for a 2-megapixel unit, though its menu system may be too complex for casual users.



Sony Mavica MVC-FD95

Sony Electronics
San Jose, CA
800-352-7669
www.sel.sony.com

Average Price: \$973

Weight: 2.04 pounds
Storage: 1.44MB floppy disk
LCD Size: 2.5 inches

The Mavica MVC-FD95 has a powerful zoom lens and the ability to capture close-ups of exceptional clarity. But the camera's mediocre image quality, low-capacity floppy-disk media, and high price offset the pluses.



Toshiba PDR-M4

Toshiba America
New York, NY
800-879-4963
www.toshiba.com

Average Price: \$384

Weight: 10 ounces
Storage: SmartMedia, 8MB
LCD Size: 1.8 inches

The compact PDR-M4 has a wide range of features, including burst, multi-image, and low-exposure capture modes. But its poor image quality and lack of an optical zoom lens detract from its appeal.



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utility requires multiple steps in several windows to select and copy files. In a particularly irksome design decision, thumbnail previews are off by default; you must click a checkbox to view them. And because you can't save the settings, you have to do it all over again each time you transfer your images.

Overall, the RDC-7's ease of use, close macro capability, and full complement of accessories help compensate for the average image quality, as long as you can overlook the software's quirks.

SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-S70

EDITORS' RATING 7.0

DESIGN	7	IMAGE QUALITY	8
EASE OF USE	7	PERFORMANCE	8
FEATURES	7	VALUE	5

PROS: Excellent image quality; comfortable size; bright LCD with good outdoor visibility; short macro focus distance

CONS: No lens attachments or converters; uses uncommon media format; user guide hard to follow

Almost everything about the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-S70 is distinctive—its compactness, feature set, ease of use, bundled software, and,

3-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERAS

unfortunately, its storage media. This \$799.95-direct digicam captures both high-quality still images and decent-looking video clips, the latter suitable for e-mail or Web posting. Photo enthusiasts may be put off because the camera's zoom lens doesn't accept attachments or converters, but families and businesses will find the DSC-S70 a terrific choice.

We took a show-stopping shot outdoors at the minimum-rated macro distance, and captured sharp detail and vivid colors using the spot-metering mode. Only when we used a flash with indoor lighting did we get unsatisfactory white balance, though flash shots taken at the maximum rated distance were exposed correctly.

Sony has packed a plethora of features into the camera's striking silver-and-black case, but the Cyber-shot still remains extremely portable, weighing 15.5 ounces with batteries, lens cap, shoulder strap, and media. You won't be intimidated by the

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DSC-S70's controls, either. The camera's design makes it hard to hit buttons accidentally and quite convenient to select focus and flash, program auto-exposure settings, adjust the zoom and diopter, and flip between capture and playback modes.

Family users in particular will love the camera's software bundle, which includes an impressive software suite from MGI Software Corp. that, among other things,

lets you use your photos to create mock magazine covers, greeting cards, albums, calendars, and posters.

The DSC-S70 powers up to shoot in 5 seconds, and it takes the same amount of time to process each shot at the highest resolution. Unfortunately, if you want to store uncompressed images, you'll need to purchase a larger-capacity Memory Stick because the included 8MB Stick is not enough. Moreover, Sony's Memory Stick media is much less common than CompactFlash or SmartMedia, which can make it difficult to exchange files with other users.

TOSHIBA PDR-M70

EDITORS' RATING 4.7

DESIGN	5	IMAGE QUALITY	3
EASE OF USE	4	PERFORMANCE	6
FEATURES	5	VALUE	5

PROS: Solid construction; well-labeled image-capture controls; relatively fast processing speed
CONS: Below-average image quality; confusing menus and controls; no uncompressed file format

You expect a 3-megapixel digital camera to offer top-notch image quality, but the Toshiba PDR-M70 falls short of the mark. Add to this the camera's confusing menus and controls, and the PDR-M70 quickly drops behind the competition, despite some noteworthy features such as fast performance and audio

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Nikon Coolpix 880	Olympus C-3030 Zoom	Ricoh RDC-7	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-S70	Toshiba PDR-M70
MFR. EST. PRICE	\$799	\$999	\$799.99 (direct)	\$799.95 (direct)	\$749
Weight (Ounces)	9.7	15	9.5	15.5	14.4
Dimensions (HWD, Inches)	3.9x3x2.1	4x2.5x3	5.3x2.9x1	4.6x2.8x2.5	4.6x3x2.4
LCD Size (Inches)	1.8	1.8	2	2	1.8
CCD Resolution (Megapixels)	3.34	3.34	3.30	3.30	3.40
STORAGE					
Removable Memory Type	CompactFlash Type I	SmartMedia	SmartMedia	Sony Memory Stick	SmartMedia
Included Memory	8MB	16MB	8MB	8MB	16MB
Image Capacity (Standard Resolution)	40	20	26	12	19
Image Capacity (Highest Resolution)	1	6	12	5	13
Uncompressed Output	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
LENS SPECIFICATIONS					
Optical Zoom Level	2.5x	3x	3x	3x	3x
Digital Zoom Level	4x	2.5x	3x	6x	2x
Widest Wide-Angle Focal Length*	38mm	32mm	35mm	34mm	35mm
Longest Telephoto Focal Length	95mm	96mm	105mm	102mm	105mm
Closest Macro Focus Distance (In.)	1.6	8	0.25	1	4
Widest Aperture Setting (f-stop)	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.0	2.0
Narrowest Aperture Setting (f-stop)	11.3	11	3.4	8	2.5
Fastest Shutter Speed (Sec.)	1/1,000	1/800	1/1,000	1/1,000	1/1,000
Slowest Shutter Speed (Sec.)	8	1	1/4	8	1/8
Accepts Interchangeable or Additional Lenses	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
ADDITIONAL FEATURES					
Video Capture	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audio Recording	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Metering Modes	Matrix, spot, center-weighted	Multipattern, spot	Center-weighted	Spot	Auto
White-Balance Options	Auto, five presets, manual	Auto, four presets, manual	Auto, four presets, manual	Auto, four presets	Auto, two presets, manual
Flash Range (Feet)	12.3	13	8.4	8.25	13
Supported File Formats	TIFF, JPEG	TIFF, JPEG	AVI, JPEG, TIFF (proprietary)	JPEG, MPEG, TIFF	JPEG
Connectivity	USB, serial	USB, serial	USB, serial	USB	USB
Battery Technology	Lithium	Lithium	Lithium-ion	Proprietary Infolithium	Proprietary lithium-ion
AC Adapter Included	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
SUPPORT					
Standard Warranty	One year	One year	One year	One year parts/90 days labor	One year
Toll-Free Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Live Tech-Support Hours (ET)	24 hours daily	9 a.m. to 10 p.m. M-F	7 a.m. to 10 p.m. M-F, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sa	24 hours daily	11 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F
Online Tech Support	E-mail, Web	E-mail, Web	E-mail, Web	Web	E-mail, Web

* = 35mm-Camera Equivalent



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and video capture.

The PDR-M70 displayed lackluster performance on most of our test shots. Inside shots with spot-metering produced underexposed images. The camera's stop-action mode effectively froze the subject, but color capture was inaccurate. Shots taken at the maximum-rated flash distance, meanwhile, did not illuminate the image adequately, although the flash was effective to about 10 feet. Indoor shots taken at the minimum-rated macro distance had an orange cast, though we had better luck with outside lighting conditions in that mode. Finally, shots taken under outdoor lighting conditions came out overexposed when we used spot-metering but were fine with matrix-metering. Video-capture quality was typical for a still-image camera—good for informal use only—as was the quality of recorded audio.

The camera's bright LCD conveniently displays the image and control menus simultaneously, but navigating its multilayered, unintuitive menus is an exercise in frustration. The voice-recording mode does have a legible and user-friendly menu, however.

3-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERAS

The PDR-M70 is a comfortable size and weighs less than a pound with media, battery, and neck strap. It has a manageable number of controls, which are conveniently spaced and clearly labeled, though they are not well-integrated with the menus. Overall, the PDR-M70's controls are self-explanatory except for the Mode dial—the TV (shutter speed priority mode) and AV (aper-

AN IMAGE OF PERFECTION

Of the five cameras we looked at for this story, the \$999 Olympus C-3030 Zoom stands out for its combination of great image quality and a substantial software bundle. But any of these models, with the exception of the Toshiba PDR-M70, should adequately fill most people's needs.

At the same time, we should point out that none of the cameras reviewed here matches the standard set by some other available 3-megapixel models, such as the Epson

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >					
EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	6.7	7.5	6.2	7.0	4.7
PRODUCT	Nikon Coolpix 880	Olympus C-3030 Zoom	Ricoh RDC-7	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-S70	Toshiba PDR-M70
COMPANY	Nikon Melville, NY 800-645-6689 www.nikonusa.com	Olympus America Melville, NY 877-337-1507 www.olympusamerica.com	Ricoh Corp. W. Caldwell, NJ 888-742-6410 www.ricoh-usa.com	Sony Electronics San Jose, CA 800-352-7669 www.sel.sony.com	Toshiba America New York, NY 800-879-4963 www.toshiba.com
MFR. EST. PRICE	\$799 34135	\$999 34136	\$799.99 (direct) 34137	\$799.95 (direct) 34138	\$749 34139
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ture priority mode) settings are easily mistaken for video modes.

Despite its aggressive price and flexible feature set, the Toshiba PDR-M70 is hobbled by its below-average image quality. We'd recommend spending a little extra for a more capable model.

PhotoPC 3000Z, which we reviewed in our August issue. This \$999 camera produces outstanding images, has a solid case, and offers many easy-to-use features. But for \$200 less, the Nikon Coolpix 880 and Sony Cyber-shot DSC-S70 produce high-quality images with only minor sacrifices in flexibility. ▼

Photo Samples

These photos were taken under tungsten lights without flash fill to test each camera's exposure capabilities under typical indoor lighting. When comparing the images, pay attention to the color balance—particularly the yellow, orange, and brown pastels in the bowl and the "flesh" tone of the doll heads. Also, note the amount of detail in the textured papers in the background and foreground. To download these images full-size, see the individual reviews at www.zdnet.com/special/filters/sc/camera.



Nikon Coolpix 880



Olympus C-3030 Zoom



Ricoh RDC-7



Sony Cyber-shot DSC-S70



Toshiba PDR-M70

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Canon EOS D-30	CALL
Canon BJC-8200 Printer	\$299⁹⁹



Nikon

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Also Available

Nikon CoolPix 990	CALL
Nikon CoolPix 950	CALL
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Also Available

Olympus C-3000	\$799⁹⁹
Olympus C-2100	\$999⁹⁹
Olympus E-100 RS	\$1489⁹⁹



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Fuji FinePix 4700	CALL
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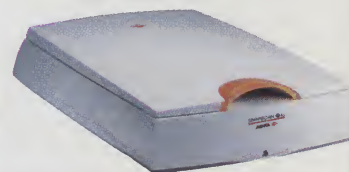
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Epson 1270 Stylus	\$459⁹⁹
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essential guide

BUYING PHOTO-QUALITY INKJETS

Photo-Quality Printers Get Affordable

Within the last year, true photo-quality inkjets have stormed the market, accompanied by superior resolution, lower cost, and long-lasting inks. Even some professional-quality inkjets are now available at consumer prices. Impressive under-\$200 printers now deliver superb photo output.

The best photo printers use six ink colors rather than the usual four, improving quality by making it easier to mix a color (since more inks are available for mixing). Fewer dots per color means smaller, less visible dot patterns. A good photo inkjet should also be able to change tone gradually, without visible patterns or jumps in color or darkness.

When shopping, realize that inkjets often have different resolutions for color and monochrome. Look for the photo-output resolu-



tion. Photo inkjets may be able to make up for a somewhat lower resolution with sophisticated dithering schemes, but the only sure way to rate photo output is to view print samples. If you are unable to do that, consider buying a printer you can return without paying a restocking fee, in case you're not satisfied.

PHOTO-Printer essentials

- Check consumable costs, print speed, image longevity, and paper-handling options.
- View actual print samples, if at all possible.
- For consumer-level photo output, seek a minimum 600-dpi resolution and four ink colors.
- For professional quality, demand at least 1,200 dpi and six ink colors.

FAMILY OF CONSUMER

Many families seek moderate-quality photo printing, plus some text printing. For them, four-color printers capable of 600-dpi resolution can produce very credible results—more than enough for printing snapshots and images up

to 5x7 inches. And the cost of printing with four-color inkjets is less than for six-color ones. Expect to spend \$150 to \$200 for a four-color photo-quality inkjet. You may also find six-color printers in this range. Some of the printers in this category include the HP DeskJet 932C (under \$200), which features 600-dpi photo-quality output, automatic color matching, moderate-cost consumables, and the ability to print envelopes and card stock. The Canon BJC-8200 (around \$260) offers 1,200x1,200-dpi resolution and the ability to print a 4x6-inch photo in about a minute. The Lexmark Z52 Color Jetprinter (under \$200) delivers 2,400x1,200 dpi and can print on envelopes. The Epson Stylus Photo 870 (under \$200) offers 1,440x720 dpi, with long-life inks.

GRAPHICS PROFESSIONAL

The essentials for pro-quality output are resolution, color fidelity,

and print durability—and many inexpensive photo printers qualify. High-quality paper is essential to good photo output, with coated glossy or semigloss stock producing the best results.

Photo pros may opt for dye-sublimation printers, though dye subs typically max out at 300-dpi resolution and cost more than inkjets. Best all-around are high-end inkjets, which range from under \$200 to \$800.

The HP PhotoSmart P1000 Photo Printer (under \$300) delivers 2,400x1,200-dpi enhanced resolution, fast print speeds, 8MB of RAM, and the ability to print envelopes, labels, card stock, and transparencies. The 1,440x720-dpi Epson Stylus Photo 2000P (less than \$800) offers archival-grade inks. The Epson Stylus Photo 1270 (\$440), similar to the 870, prints sheets up to 13x44 inches. ▼



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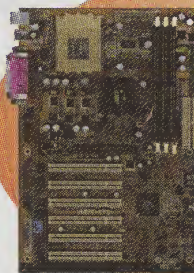
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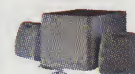
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BY DAVID ENGLISH

No Strings Attached

Wireless
Web
Access
To Go

In the 1967 movie *The Graduate*, the future is summed up in one word: plastics. If the movie were made today, the future might be summed up with another one: wireless. According to the Cahners In-Stat Group, the wireless data market will grow worldwide from 170 million subscribers in 2000 to more than 1.3 billion in 2004. The wireless subscribers in 2004 will be using more than 1.5 billion devices equipped for wireless access, including PDAs, pagers, cell phones, and Internet appliances.

With such a bright future ahead for wireless data, you may be wondering if you should tap in now or wait for Web-access technologies to mature. If you check your

e-mail and a group of Web sites frequently throughout the day, you're a prime candidate for this new kind of Internet service—today. There's no reason to wait. Some devices will even hook you up so you can chat online, consult an online encyclopedia, check the latest sports scores, or find the nearest Italian restaurant, complete with door-to-door directions. And having these resources on call wherever you go can be addictive.

You'll discover some trade-offs, however, so think about how you'll use wireless Web access before choosing a platform. Currently, wireless access is possible via three main categories of device, each with distinct advantages and disadvantages. Web-enabled cell phones are especially convenient if you already carry a cell phone, but they have the most restricted Internet capabilities. Web-enabled pagers are small and integrate well with corporate e-mail systems, but they have limited storage capabilities. Wireless PDAs come closest to letting you surf the Web, but even they can't

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS GOULD



handle many popular Web standards, such as Flash and DHTML.

In addition to selecting a platform, you'll have to consider other factors, including price, bandwidth, coverage, portability, battery life, integration with your desktop, and data input. Here's a look at how the three platforms compare.

WIRELESS PDAS

It's a natural to extend the functionality of PDAs with wireless capabilities. Most PDAs already handle e-mail and limited browsing using a dial-up connection. PDAs are also well-equipped for adding specialized wireless applications. More than 400 of these site-specific programs are available for the Palm VII and the Palm VIIx. They range in size from 1K to about 10K and run the gamut in content—from a continually updated Letterman Top Ten

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO WIRELESS WEB DEVICES

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology. Another third-party program, Corsoft Aileron, supports as many as three POP3 e-mail accounts and lets you mix in your desktop e-mail.

Palm's wireless service plan is especially flexible. You can opt for as little as \$9.95 a month for 50K of data or go for the unlimited-use plan for \$44.95 a month. Palm lets you switch the plan each month, so you could choose the basic plan for months when you're not as busy and choose the unlimited plan for months when you're on the road.

If you want to add a wireless modem to a PDA, you can choose among several options. OmniSky supports the Palm V, Visor Platinum, and Visor Prism with its

YadaYada offers a similar add-on modem and wireless service for the Palm V and Handspring Visor. The built-in browser does a better job of handling HTML and graphics—so much better that the company claims it can access 100 percent of HTML-created Web sites. The \$299 modem is heavily discounted (at press time, you could receive a \$150 discount), and unlimited service is available for \$39.95 a month. Both OmniSky and YadaYada use Novatel-manufactured Minstrel modems, which employ Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) technology for 19.2Kbps data speeds.

On the Pocket PC side, OmniSky plans to support both the HP Jornada and Compaq iPaq. If you need something right away, you might consider an iPaq H3650 Pocket PC (\$499), Compaq PC Card Expansion Pack (\$149), and Sierra Wireless AirCard 300 (\$399). Unlimited-use CDPD access plans for the AirCard cost about \$50 a month. Because it's a Type II PC Card, you can also use the 19.2Kbps AirCard 300 in your notebook with your standard browser and e-mail programs.

WEB-ENABLED PAGERS

Today's pocket-size pagers can handle both e-mail and limited Web browsing. They offer the advantage of audio and vibration alerts when a message is received. If you don't need the extra software capabilities of a PDA, a pager can reduce the size of your wireless device significantly—even while adding a small thumb-typeable keyboard. Pagers come in two configurations: a half-palm size with a small screen that's equipped for e-mail only, and a full-palm

Web-ready PDAs: Modems such as the OmniSky (left) or the YadaYada (right) snap onto the PDA you own. If you're starting fresh, consider a unit with a built-in modem, such as the Palm VIIx (middle).



list to a text-to-synthesized-speech phone-message system. Currently, wireless PDAs come in two configurations: integrated wireless PDAs (such as the Palm VIIx) and PDAs with a detachable wireless modem (such as the Palm V with an OmniSky modem or a Compaq iPaq Pocket PC with an AirCard modem).

The \$449 Palm VIIx doesn't include a built-in Web browser, but an excellent third-party browser, DPWeb, is available from Digital Paths. The basic version of DPWeb is free; a \$20 version adds bookmarks, plus support for cookies and

add-on modem. The modem is normally \$299, though OmniSky regularly offers substantial rebates, such as a \$200 discount if you sign up for six months of unlimited use for \$39.95 a month. With OmniSky, you can

send and receive e-mail from as many as six POP3 e-mail accounts. Like the Palm VIIx, it offers Web access to sites optimized for wireless devices, as well as essentially text-only browsing of other sites.

Which Kind of Wireless Device Should You Buy?

Type of Device	Pros	Cons	Suitability	Typical Device Price	Typical Service Price
PDA	Best browser; easily upgradable; can run other software	Largest and heaviest of the three platforms	Computer buffs	\$400 to \$1,000	\$10 to 60 a month
Pager	E-mail alerts; works well with corporate e-mail systems; built-in keyboard	Limited browsing	Good company-wide solution	\$100 to \$400	\$40 a month, or sliding fee based on use
Cell Phone	Convenient if currently using cell phone; flexible service plans	Small screen; limited browsing; difficult input	Gadget-adverse users with limited Net needs	Free to \$399	No additional charge, or sliding fee based on use

size with a larger screen that's equipped for both e-mail and Web access.

Currently, the most Internet-savvy pager is the \$399 palm-size RIM 957 Wireless Handheld. The 957 features audio

and vibration e-mail alerts and an integrated calendar, address book, and task list. RIM's e-mail service costs \$39.95 a month for unlimited use. Go America provides browser and e-mail service over the 14.4Kbps Mobitex network (the same one used by the Palm VIIx) for a total price of \$59.95 a month for unlimited use. The Go America browser offers Web access to sites that are optimized for wireless devices and provides limited access to other sites. It can't handle Web-based graphics or HTML frames, but it does reformat text fairly well. The 957 is considerably smaller than a Palm VIIx or a Palm V with an add-on modem, so you may find it easier to carry around.

Motorola's \$399 Timeport P935 doesn't offer Web browsing, but it does let you access Web-based information from its nine-line-by-29-character screen. You can receive sports, weather, news, and stock-market updates, as well as traffic reports, music reviews, and movie times. You can also send and receive regular e-mail using the built-in 49-key QWERTY keyboard. Pricing for the P935's wireless service is determined by the

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO WIRELESS WEB DEVICES

wireless service provider. SkyTel offers a variety of service plans for Motorola pagers, most with a monthly fee that caps the number of characters you can send each month.

YOU CALL THIS THE WEB?

The ads claim you can surf the Web with your new wireless device, but you'll soon find the experience falls far short of desktop browsing. Even if your device supports graphics, you won't be able to view streaming video or Flash animations. Most devices don't even support HTML frames, so you may have to select one of several frames on a Web page and hope that titles will indicate which is the text frame and which is the navigation frame.

This ought to paint the picture: Think about how much text you can view on your desktop monitor at 1,024x768 or 1,280x1,024 resolution. Now imagine a 160x160-pixel window for the same amount of text. That's a Palm handheld. Now imagine cramming that same text onto a tiny screen with only six lines and 16 characters per line. That's a cell phone.



But don't give up hope. Because wireless access is the technological zeitgeist of the year, companies are bent on figuring out how to convert the big-screen Web experience into bite-size portions suitable for a pocket device. Many companies offer special versions of their main sites with the same information reformatted for tiny screens. Look for the Internet to branch into two distinct directions:

experience. You have to hit the number keys multiple times to select the letters of the alphabet. And Web sites have to be optimized to a screen that may have only five or six lines of text with 15 to 20 characters on each line. Some phones include a built-in Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) microbrowser that can connect to

one of bandwidth-hungry sites for desktops, with Flash graphics and embedded video files, and one made up of slimmed-down sites for mobile devices, using mostly text. Smaller screens can load graphics faster than larger screens, so you can also expect developers to experiment with wireless-friendly animation and video over the next few years.

Wireless devices are well-worth using—as long as you scale down your expectations. They're great for getting the weather, news headlines, stock quotes, and sports scores. Standard sites such as AltaVista, Britannica.com, and CNN.com are surprisingly useful on a mobile device—plus, the ability to access them anytime, anywhere is truly impressive. The days of a uniform Web experience are over. It's a multiplatform world, and our sense of one World Wide Web will be changed forever.

WEB-ENABLED CELL PHONES

If you carry a cell phone, you already subscribe to a wireless network, so you might think adding Web data would be a cinch. But Web phones have been slow to catch on in the United States, perhaps because they offer a very limited Internet

sites optimized for the tiny screen. To date, most WAP-compatible sites are in Europe, though the number in the United States is increasing.

Sprint's \$229.99 PCS Touchpoint 2200 digital cell phone includes Sprint's own minibrowser that's already configured for AOL, Amazon.com, Fidelity, MSN Mobile, and Yahoo. In addition to receiving e-mail at your Sprint PCS address, you can send and receive messages through your Hotmail or My Yahoo accounts. Though it lacks a built-in browser, the MSN Mobile portal provides plenty of useful Web-related information, including stock prices, sports scores, entertainment news, local weather, scheduled flights, and door-to-door directions. The 2200 is manufactured by Qualcomm and is one of the smaller cell phones available. Sprint's Internet data services require an extra fee, which varies according to the service plan. (Keep in mind that cell-phone prices are often drastically reduced when you commit to a service plan.)



Light and ultracompact, Web-ready pagers such as the RIM 957 Wireless Handheld (complete with calendar, address book, and task list) and the clamshell-style Motorola Timeport P935 come ready to communicate.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS LENSCH

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- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive ■ SB Live! Value Digital
- 8X/4X/32X Max CD-RW Drive
- Harman Kardon HK-695 Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- U.S. Robotics® V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI Telephony Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty² ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service⁴
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- HP® ScanJet® 4300Cse, add \$99 after \$50 HP® Mail-In Rebate³⁸ (Reg. \$149)

Power Protection:

- APC Pro8T2 SurgeArrest, add \$39

Software:

- Ultimate Sports Pack Plus (Dimension™ only)¹⁶, add \$79
- Home Reference 4-pack¹⁶, add \$79

Camera:

- HP® C315 Digital Camera, add \$299

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¹⁰Telephone access (call your phone co. for details) and other surcharges for access may apply. Must register within 30 days of receiving computer and accept DellNet/MSN Terms of Service. You agree to be billed monthly fees after the initial service period. You may cancel service at any time. Offer valid for new customers only in U.S. households and must be over 18 years old with major credit card. Limited time offer. ¹²Monthly payment based on 13.99% APR FOR QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS. OFFER VARIES BY CREDIT-WORTHINESS OF CUSTOMER AS DETERMINED BY LENDER. Under 90 Days Same As Cash feature, interest accrues during first 90 days if balance not paid within 90 days. Customers not eligible for 90 Days Same As Cash feature may be offered standard 48-month financing with APRs ranging from 16.99% to 23.99%. Example: \$1,650 purchase price, at 18.99%, 48 monthly payments at \$50. Taxes and shipping charges extra, and vary. From American Investment Bank, N.A. to U.S. residents with approved credit. Availability may be limited in some states. Limited time offer.

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Curious about the capabilities of WAP? Motorola's V Series V2282 (\$100 to \$200, depending on the carrier) features a WAP 1.1 microbrowser. With six lines of text and 16 characters per line, the view is definitely cramped. In addition to WAP

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO WIRELESS WEB DEVICES

minutes for browsing selected Web sites. For an additional \$6.99 a month, you can add unlimited e-mail to and from your

The most exciting developments in wireless data will follow from a significant increase in bandwidth. Ricochet's latest portable modem can connect at speeds as high as 128Kbps. At press time, service was available in only nine U.S. cities for a flat rate

of \$80 a month. The Ricochet modems connect to a PDA or notebook through a USB port, a serial port, or as a PC Card.

Even 128Kbps could be an interim step to much faster wireless access. The much touted third-generation (3G) cell-phone network will zoom along at 384Kbps for

What Can You Do With It?

Product	Type of Device	Data Network	Bandwidth	Typical Tasks
Palm VIIx	PDA	Mobitex	14.4Kbps	E-mail; gray-scale browsing without graphics; site-specific Web applications
OmniSky modem	PDA	CDPD	19.2Kbps	E-mail; gray-scale or color browsing with very limited graphics; site-specific Web applications
YadaYada modem	PDA	CDPD	19.2Kbps	E-mail; gray-scale or color browsing with limited graphics; site-specific Web applications
Compaq iPaq Pocket PC with Sierra Wireless AirCard 300 modem	PDA or notebook	CDPD	19.2Kbps	E-mail; color browsing with graphics
Ricochet modem	PDA or notebook	MCDN	128Kbps	E-mail; color browsing with graphics
RIM 957 Wireless Handheld	Pager	Mobitex	14.4Kbps	E-mail; gray-scale browsing without graphics; site-specific Web applications
Motorola Timeport P935	Pager	ReFlex	9.6Kbps	E-mail; site-specific Web applications
Sprint PCS Touchpoint 2200	Cell phone	Sprint PCS	14.4Kbps	E-mail; site-specific Web applications
Motorola V2282	Cell phone	CDMA or GSM	Depends on carrier	E-mail; gray-scale WAP browser without graphics; site-specific Web applications
AT&T Phones with PocketNet	Cell phone	CDPD	19.2Kbps	E-mail; site-specific Web applications

browsing, the phone provides several Web miniportals, including Web2PCS, AirFlash, and Strategy. The V2282 is available in both CDMA and GSM versions. Data pricing varies according to the carrier, but it's an additional fee on top of the usual cell-phone charges.

Cell-phone charges can be expensive if you use your phone extensively for Web access. AT&T offers flat-rate data pricing with several cell phones that carry the AT&T logo. After signing up with any AT&T Wireless Services Digital PCS Calling Plan, you receive unlimited

mobile phone. AT&T refers to the data package as AT&T Digital PocketNet, and it uses the CDPD wireless network.

RIDING THE AIRWAVES

What's ahead for wireless data devices? Look for more wireless service providers to adopt flat-rate pricing. Most users would rather pay a monthly fee than have to worry about how many bytes are contained in an e-mail message or a Web page. Look for new companies to carve a niche for themselves by converting standard Web pages into text and graphics that can be viewed on a variety of tiny screens.

Wireless Power Tools

4 ESSENTIAL ZDNET DOWNLOADS

- DataBites**
Build auto-updated links for your wireless handheld or phone.
- EzWAP**
Browse WAP-compatible sites with your Pocket PC.
- Unimobile**
Add instant messages to wireless devices.
- WAPman**
Browse WAP-compatible sites with your Palm.

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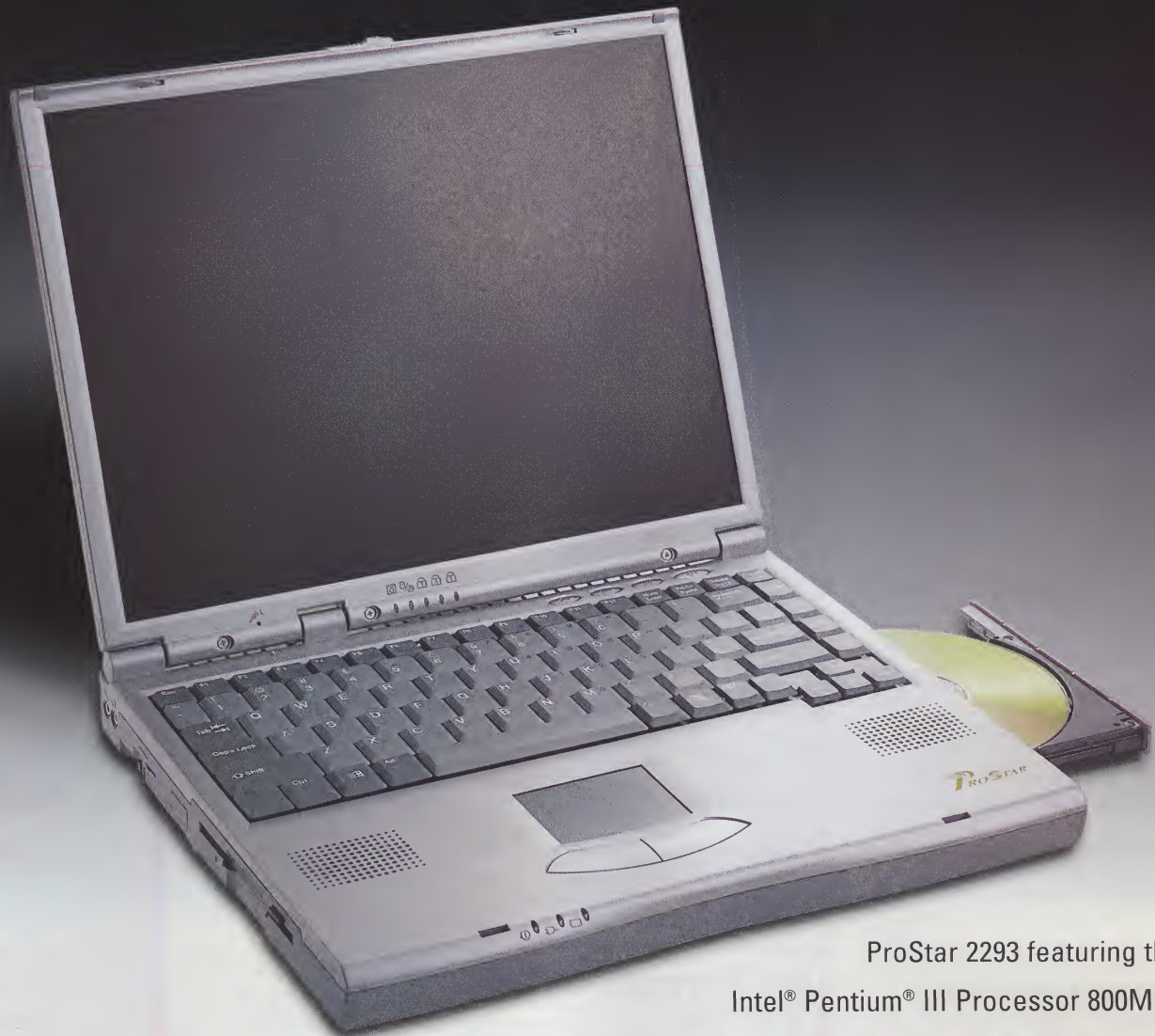
true ISDN-like speeds. It won't begin to take off until 2003 or 2004, but manufacturers are already creating prototype devices capable of handling voice calls, Internet access, and videoconferencing (using a built-in video camera). In remote areas, it may be cheaper to implement a wireless 3G system than to wire the community for DSL or cable.

The current assortment of wireless Web devices offers a mere preview of the products and services expected over the next few years. But if you want data-to-go today, one of these PDAs, pagers, or cell phones can put it in your hand—no strings attached. ▼

If you're used to carrying a cell phone, toting one that's Web-ready—such as Motorola's WAP-enabled V2282 or Sprint's Touchpoint 2200—will make you feel even more connected.



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PROSTAR

essential guide

BUYING Scanners

Make a Sharp Buy With These Shopping Tips

Scanners now come in all shapes and sizes, from pen-style "digital highlighters" to large flatbeds. This variety can make it hard to figure out exactly what you should purchase.

Take a look at our guide below to see which user profile applies to you. The profiles will help you narrow down the features and prices to focus on when shopping for a new scanner.

STUDENT

Students with basic scanning needs, such as scanning photos to send via e-mail or to post on a Web page, can find budget-price USB scanners with 300-dpi optical resolution for around \$100. Graphics or design students, however, will want to opt for a better-quality scanner with 600-dpi resolution and 30- or 36-bit color depth. Costs can range from \$200 to \$300 for these scanners. In either case, students should seek a scanner with a small footprint to fit those cramped dorm-room desks.

SMALL-OFFICE OR HOME-OFFICE USER

A small or home office may need a scanner not only to input graphics and photos, but also to enter documents via optical character recognition (OCR) for digital storage or faxing on a PC. Scan speeds and image quality matter to SOHO users, who will probably want a 600-dpi optical resolution and a maximum color depth



greater than the basic 24-bit level. They should opt for a scanner with a USB, SCSI, or IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface. Scanners in this class range from \$200 to \$400.

PHOTO OR GRAPHICS PROFESSIONAL

Photographers may want a pure photo scanner or slide scanner, while designers may want the ability to scan transparencies as well as larger tabloid-size images—requiring a suitably equipped flatbed scanner. In general, graphics pros need a minimum 600-dpi resolution and 36-bit color depth, and should get a unit with a SCSI or IEEE 1394 (FireWire) connection for the fastest possible scans. Prices vary widely based on features, but expect to pay at least \$300 for a letter-size flatbed and more than \$2,000 for tabloid-size,

with dedicated photo and slide scanners costing upwards of \$700.

MOBILE USER

Travelers who need a flatbed scanner while on the road should look for the lightest unit, though more options are available if you don't need a flatbed model. Some portable printers double as scanners, too, though you'll sacrifice scan speed and image quality. If you only need to scan portions of text documents, consider pen-size scanners that work like digital highlighters. Expect to pay \$100 to \$400, depending on the type of scanner you need.

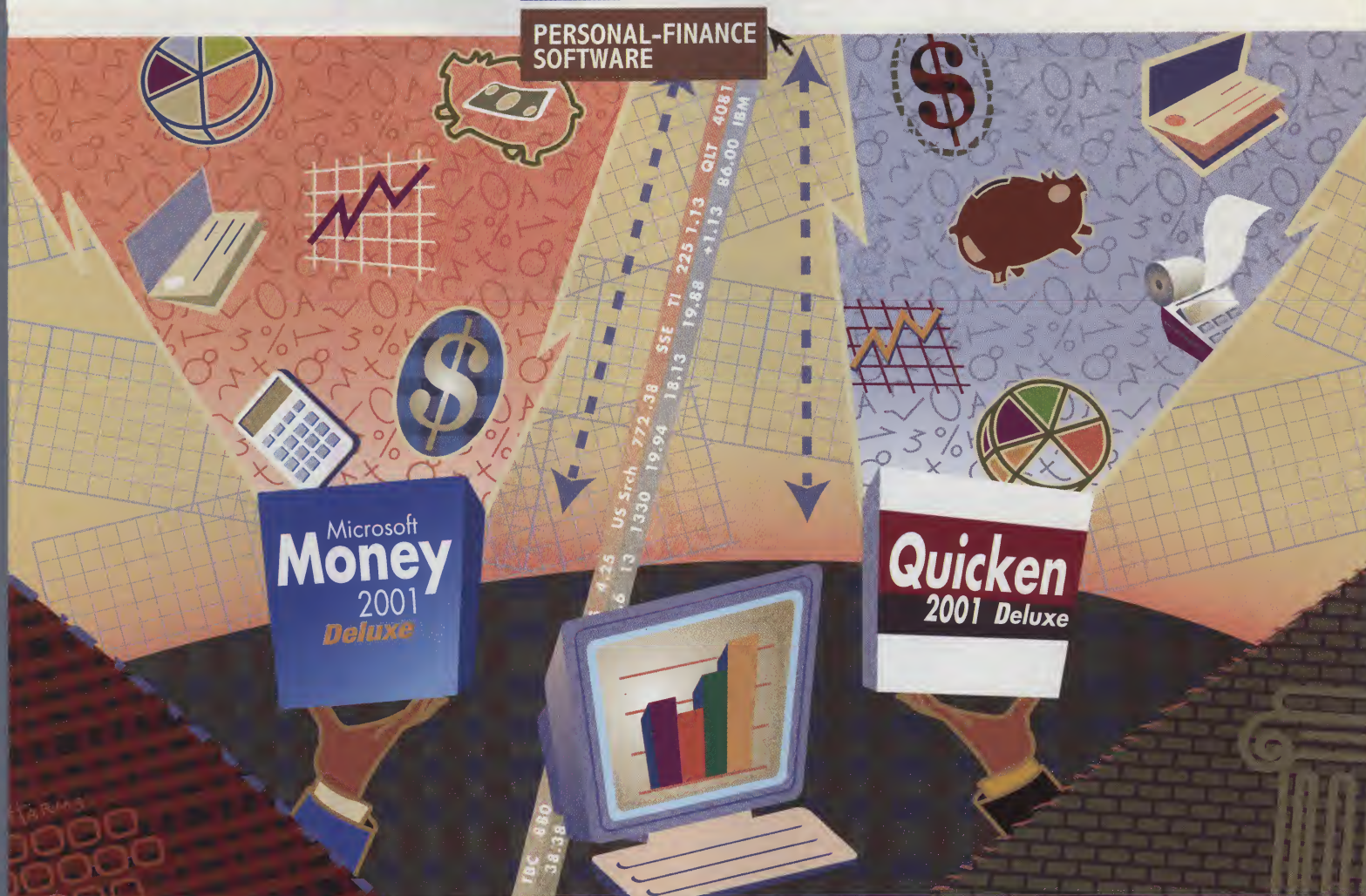
TEXT ONLY

If your top scanning priority is text-based—inputting legal documents, articles, and book excerpts—avoid units with high optical resolutions and color bit depths aimed at

graphics users. A USB interface is fine for personal or low-volume scanning, but high-volume scanning will generally require SCSI or IEEE 1394. You'll also need a scanner with an automatic document feeder and good OCR software. Scanners for users without graphics demands range from \$150 to \$300.

BUDGET BUYER

If you're willing to compromise on image quality and scan speed, you should be able to find an adequate scanner at bargain prices. You'll most likely get a scanner with an optical resolution of 300 dpi and a 24-bit color depth, along with bundled entry-level software. Watch out for scanners in this range that have parallel-port connections; a USB port is preferable and costs about the same. Expect to pay between \$50 to \$150 for a bargain scanner. ▼



Financial Advisors Face Off

BY WAYNE KAWAMOTO

Money and Quicken make it easier than ever to take total control of your finances.

After years of additions, modifications, evolution, and tweaking, the latest personal-finance managers, Microsoft Money 2001 Deluxe and Intuit's Quicken 2001 Deluxe, continue to improve. Both come loaded with features—many of which are quite similar. Either is, and has long been, a competent choice for basic personal-finance chores. They manage and balance checkbooks, monitor and update investment portfolios, create and track budgets, and develop and project financial plans with aplomb. The latest improvements strengthen ties to the Web and provide advanced features for more detailed planning and tracking.

PERSONAL-FINANCE
SOFTWARE

Even so, these latest releases are probably of most interest to those who are buying a financial planner for the first time or who have not upgraded in several years. If you're happy with your personal-finance manager, there's probably nothing compelling enough in the 2001 revs to prompt you to cross platforms or to migrate to a new version.

If you're shopping for the first time—or for the first time in a long while—you may notice some differences that make Money more attractive to less experienced users, and Quicken the program of choice for experienced investors and users. But these differences are not terribly striking; either program can serve both demographics nicely.

MICROSOFT MONEY 2001 DELUXE

EDITORS' RATING **7.7**

BILL PAYMENT.....	7	INSTALLATION/SETUP.....	8
BUDGETING/CASH FLOW.....	8	PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT.....	7
EASE OF USE.....	8	VALUE.....	8
FINANCIAL PLANNING.....	8		

PROS: Excellent asset-allocation and long-term planning; customizes itself to user

CONS: Long initial "interview"; ads on main page

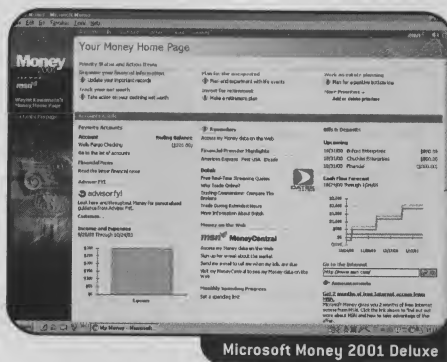
For fiscal year 2001, Microsoft Money remains a solid program for banking, paying bills, and planning and tracking investments. It does an excellent job of offering suggestions and tying finances with Web resources. Significant improvements include an asset-allocation tool, a cash-flow viewer, and integration with Kiplinger TaxCut to help prepare taxes.

To help you get a handle on your finances, Money offers a first-rate setup that asks questions about finances and priorities. The program inquires about things you may want to do, such as get out of debt, plan for retirement, buy a house, or set budgets. It also asks for information about accounts, income, and mortgage payments. This interview process takes about half an hour, but the results are worth the effort.

Based on your answers, Money emphasizes your priorities as you use the program. For example, if you said that you want to plan for retirement, Money displays retirement priorities and options on its main page. In this way, Money does a better job of customizing itself to a particular financial situation than Quicken does.

Money intelligently groups its tools and features under categories, which keeps its menus short and reduces the visual clutter.

Overall, the organization of each financial center is attractive and intuitive, with logical centers for accounts and bills, investing, planning, and taxes. We like the way that Money displays relevant alerts and action



items, as well as links to Web resources. Also, its videos are a big help in explaining financial concepts such as budgeting, reducing debt, and planning.

On the register page, Money does a great job of offering common options, such as searching for transactions and paying bills. On the downside, Money bombards you with ads on its main page, which feels as much like a billboard as a user interface. Money should consider displaying fewer ads and put up more financial information, as Quicken does.

We liked the advisor FYI options, which let you easily set important dates and adjust spending limits. On the check-register page, Money offers helpful information—which you can customize—on upcoming bills and deposits, and a graph depicts upcoming cash flow based on past transactions. There's also a welcome new budget-maintenance feature that lets you overspend in one category and then allocate money from other categories or time periods.

If you're an investor, a new wizard helps you come up with an asset-allocation plan, and rebalances and monitors your portfolio. Like Quicken, Money now has a 401(k) manager that helps create 401(k) and 403(b) accounts, and you can download 401(k) statements from participating providers to minimize manual entry. As before, Money offers a well-designed portfolio that can display a detailed transaction history of any security.

A new tax-withholding estimator makes it easy to determine the amount of with-

holding for a particular situation. The strongest new tax-related feature allows you to integrate financial data with Kiplinger TaxCut tax-preparation software. Though TaxCut ranks a notch below Intuit's TurboTax in terms of features and ease of use, this is a positive step for Money.

As before, Money syncs with MoneyCentral (moneycentral.msn.com), Microsoft's financial Web site, so that you can view your portfolio from any Web-connected computer. You can even make changes, such as stock purchases, which are reflected on the Web site as well as on your desktop PC—something Quicken can't do. Money also lets you access bank accounts through MoneyCentral and synchronize these changes with Money on your PC.

Money clearly owns the area of long-term financial planning. We found that it offered more options for planning and considers more possibilities than Quicken does. Microsoft's Quicken-killer is a useful new Baseline Plan Comparison chart, which monitors how your lifetime plan changes over time, and compares it against your original estimates and plan.

Though Quicken has features that make it more appealing to investors, Money makes it easier for novices to manage their finances and set long-term goals. For this reason, we recommend Money to new users. While Money's features are not likely to compel current Quicken users to jump ship, the overall package is a competent rival to Quicken.

QUICKEN 2001 DELUXE

EDITORS' RATING **7.7**

BILL PAYMENT.....	8	INSTALLATION/SETUP.....	7
BUDGETING/CASH FLOW.....	8	PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT.....	8
EASE OF USE.....	8	VALUE.....	8
FINANCIAL PLANNING.....	7		

PROS: Quick bill paying; sophisticated investment tracking; easy-to-customize toolbar

CONS: Cannot enter transactions online

Quicken 2001 Deluxe remains a powerhouse program that tops Money in a few areas and has become secondary in others. As before, Quicken is a solid program for banking, bill paying, managing portfolios, planning, and reporting, with some improvements in this latest version.

The main pages of Quicken's Web-style interface look cleaner and less cluttered than in the previous version. An activity

PERSONAL-FINANCE SOFTWARE

bar helps you navigate to important tasks, such as reconciling accounts, and familiar back and forward buttons make using Quicken much like browsing a Web page. The program makes it easy to customize the toolbar to feature the buttons you want to use.

We liked the program's setup for paying bills, especially with the new Bills and Scheduled Transactions window. It's a fast, one-screen process, and this feature is immediately available below the check register. Another new feature scans your recent payments and suggests those that may be scheduled regularly, a feature that worked well in our testing. The interface makes it easy to configure alerts. Also, the Quicken home page offers advice and links to instructions for common next steps, such as setting up paychecks, so they are easy to perform.

As before, the main My Finances page offers a solid overview of your accounts and finances. You can also click on Quicken's activity centers, which include investing, household, tax, planning, and reports and graphs, to view other aspects of your finances in customizable snapshot views.

After installation, Quicken only asks a few questions to set up an initial account record, and tends to dump novices into the program with little guidance on what to do. Though Quicken isn't difficult to use, Money spends more time inquiring about your finances and priorities, and, subsequently, customizes its interface for you. In this regard, Quicken offers a fast lane with less hand-holding that may appeal to experienced users, although novices can learn it with relatively little effort.

Quicken's investment-tracking features continue to evolve and are more sophisticated than those in Money. In particular, the portfolio center lets you work with various criteria and view returns of different yearly durations with investment indicators. Quicken covers the bases with an asset-allocation tool that analyzes your holdings and goals and makes recommendations. Also, its comprehensive capital-gains estimator helps you determine the

tax implications of a security sale. We liked the modified detail views, which included such information as 52-week highs and lows, price-to-earnings ratios, cost basis, and price history in a graph.

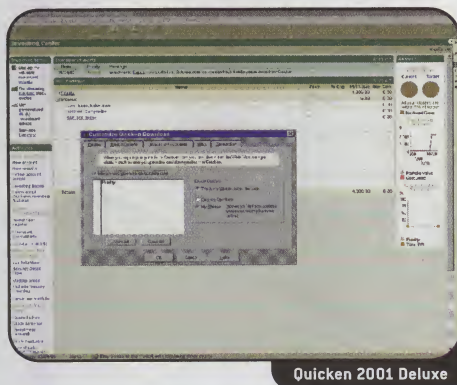
Quicken can track 401(k) holdings, and does a competent job of monitoring vested balance and of tracking loans and employer-match contributions. Through Quicken, you can obtain 401(k) advice free online, or you can pay extra for a referral to a professional advisor.

In this latest version, Quicken offers stronger ties with Intuit's Quicken.com Web site (www.quicken.com). If you like,

you can access financial information on the Web site to check balances and your portfolio when you're away from your PC. The online portfolios look almost identical to those on your Quicken desktop.

Quicken will also download investment alerts and news headlines from the Web site so you can view them within the program's Portfolio view. But while you can export a portfolio and view it on the Quicken.com Web site, you can only monitor it. You can't enter transactions, as you can with Money.

Quicken features powerful planning tools, but they are less flexible than those offered by Money. Most notably, Money does a far better job of monitoring your plans, accommodating changes, and comparing your progress against your original estimates.



Monitor Your Money

3 ESSENTIAL ZDNET DOWNLOADS

- Financial Advisor**
Calculate mortgages, loans, and more.
- Microsoft Money 2001 Deluxe** (trial version)
Road-test Microsoft's personal-finance package.
- Personal Stock Monitor Gold**
Stay on top of your stock portfolios (features Quicken QIF import/export).

DOWNLOAD THEM NOW FROM
computershopper.zdnet.com/downloads

For tax-preparation purposes, Quicken holds an edge over Money because it integrates its data with Intuit's TurboTax, the best tax program on the market. When you transfer Quicken data to TurboTax, you can now select only the categories that you need.

Longtime Quicken users will feel comfortable with this latest version and may find some welcome changes. However, for most users, the changes probably won't be enough to warrant an upgrade. And for now, Money users will find no compelling reasons to switch. This battle of the personal-finance titans ends mostly in a draw, but Quicken retains its edge for sophisticated investors.

BOTTOM LINE

You can rely on either Microsoft Money 2001 Deluxe or Quicken 2001 Deluxe to competently manage your finances. If you already use one of the two, you can stick with it, because there's no pressing reason to switch sides. If you're just starting out, and are less familiar with this software genre and money management in general, we recommend Microsoft Money. For first-timers, it edges out Quicken in a tight photo finish. ▼

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	7.7	7.7
PRODUCT	Microsoft Money 2001 Deluxe	Quicken 2001 Deluxe
COMPANY	Microsoft Corp. Redmond, WA 800-426-9400 www.microsoft.com	Intuit Mountain View, CA 800-446-8848 www.quickenstore.com/quicken2001
REQUIRES	90MHz or faster Pentium-class processor; 24MB RAM; 75MB to 210MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT 4.0 with Service Pack 5	90MHz or faster Pentium-class processor recommended; 16MB RAM; 60MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0
MFR. EST. PRICE	\$64.95 34126	\$59.95 34127

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SHOPPING
SOFTWARE


Software For Smart Shoppers

COMPANION APPLETS TRAVEL WITH
YOU FROM SITE TO SITE, HELPING TO
FIND THE BEST BARGAINS.

by David English

FOR SOME PEOPLE, online shopping is as simple as surfing up to a favorite site, clicking on a specific product, checking out, and then checking the mail. But this quick-and-dirty approach doesn't work for everyone, particularly those who like to make informed decisions and nab the lowest price.

People like Joe Schafbuch, for instance. Almost every time he shops, Schafbuch uses online shopping tools such as Clickthebutton (www.clickthebutton.com), mySimon (www.mysimon.com), and Yahoo Shopping (shopping.yahoo.com). (MySimon is owned by CNET Networks, Computer Shopper's parent company.) What's the draw? "Information about products, consumer reviews, special sales, and, most important, price," he says. Though he'd like the tools to be more standardized, the Denver-based interactive marketing manager still finds them useful when shopping for CDs, books, electronic components, computer hardware, airline tickets, and toys.

The catch is that, though Web sites such as mySimon and Yahoo Shopping provide price comparisons or aggregate information, using them can double the amount of time it takes to find what you want. Wouldn't it be great to find a tool that makes online shopping cheaper and more reliable—and easier, faster, and more manageable? That's the idea behind new Web-shopping applications, which operate either as separate browsers or as an add-on to your existing browser that watches over your shoulder as you shop.

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK MATCHO

SHOPPING SOFTWARE

Shopping utilities provide three main benefits. First, you can quickly calculate price comparisons among online vendors. Imagine visiting Amazon.com, for instance, clicking on a new book, and having a shopping app automatically pop up with a lower price for the book—from another site, no less. In some cases, the listed prices also can include shipping charges and taxes calculated for your ZIP code.

Second, these apps enable you to check the user ratings for Internet retailers and find out whether other consumers were pleased with their purchases and the e-tailers' services.

Finally, some apps even let you keep records of your online transactions and track how much you've spent and where you've spent it. If you need to keep tax records of certain purchases, these programs help you tally those sales.

These apps are available as free downloads that run on your computer, making them fundamentally different from Web-based shopping bots, which are accessed from stand-alone Web sites. Among the most popular bots are DealTime (www.dealtime.com), mySimon, and Price Watch (www.pricewatch.com). These bots provide

many of the same functions as shopping apps, but you must start on a bot's site to take advantage of its features.




SEPARATE SHOPPERS

The main advantage of shopping software that operates as a stand-alone browser or a

you may forget how to maneuver the shopping browser if you don't use it often enough. But these aren't difficult applications to learn, so that's not likely to be a huge concern.

One dedicated-browser program, MaxManager (www.maxmanager.com), places an icon on your system tray that launches a browser window when clicked. From there, you can sign up for special

Power Shopping

Shopping App	How It Assists	How It Annoys	No. of Shopping Partners	You Need It For
Aristocart 	Compares prices; streamlines shopping process	Few supported retailers	153	Simultaneously managing orders and receipts
Clickthebutton 	Compares prices, including shipping	Pops up at odd times	400	Sorting listings by product, merchant, and price
R U Sure 	Compares prices, including shipping	Launches at odd times; sometimes doesn't pop up; irritating robotic voice	More than 1,000	Searching by product, manufacturer, minimum price, and maximum price; creating product watch lists

separate window is that it doesn't slow down your browser or clutter its screen. You either shop within the program itself, or have the program go out and collect the shopping data for you.

The main disadvantage? Because you aren't using your usual, familiar browser,

offers in a variety of product categories. MaxManager can also query accounts with leading online stores and retrieve your receipts from past purchases. It then consolidates your recent orders, expiring special offers, and current bargains within your favorite product categories into convenient

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

When you fire up a software-based shopping program, you leave an electronic trail that could reveal your tastes in music, books, movies, and clothing. Use your browser, and you create a similar record that might reveal your religious, political, and sexual preferences.

Scary, isn't it?

This kind of information is collected every day as you travel from one Web site to another. Many vendors post privacy statements that indicate how they will or will not use this information. But what happens when that vendor goes out of business and sells your information to another company that doesn't offer similar protections? There is no clear answer to that, and the legal issues may take years to resolve.

In the meantime, take proactive measures to minimize the amount of personal information you inadvertently disperse. WebWasher (www.webwasher.com) installs a Referer filter that prevents companies from knowing which sites you have previously visited, a Webbug filter that removes invisible graphics in documents that can send messages back to a Web site, and a Cookie filter that helps you distin-

guish between good and bad cookies. (Cookies allow Web sites to identify and track their visitors.)

WebWasher is an application that runs alongside your browser, but Anonymizer.com (www.anonymizer.com) is a Web site that functions as an identity firewall. You can safely visit

other sites without revealing who you are or what kind of system you're using. Anonymizer disables cookies, Java, and JavaScript so you can browse sites anonymously. Press the "Here's what WE know about YOU" link, and you'll see the kind of information a site can gather within seconds of your first visit.

A product called Freedom (www.freedom.net), is a combination software and proxy service that lets you create and maintain multiple online personalities. Available for \$49.95 from Zero-Knowledge Systems, it provides anonymity for browsing,

e-mail, Internet relay chat, newsgroups, Telnet, and SSH Secure Shell. Freedom works in the background, so you can spend your time being yourself—or not yourself, depending on your mood.



ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

single-page views.

Another program, Aristocart (www.aristocart.com), employs a browser-like window to help you track down the product you want, locate the best price, and wrap up the purchase. Because it replaces your browser for online shopping, the process is more streamlined, though you're limited to the online stores that are supported by Aristocart—153 at last count.

BROWSER PIGGYBACKS

Applications that attach to your browser monitor your Web travels and pop up when appropriate. But they can be much more intrusive than stand-alone shopping applications, and some, including Clickthebutton and MaxManager, still don't support Netscape Navigator.

One program, dashBar (www.dash.com), is far from shy about announcing its presence, showing up in five places on your desktop: as an icon on the system tray, an icon on the browser's status bar, a Web-site icon on the browser's toolbar, an application button on the browser's toolbar, and a folder with four separate dashbar links on the Favorites pull-down menu. And when active, dashBar occupies a significant portion of the browser window. Fortunately, you can easily deactivate it. Another application, Shoco (www.shoco.com), grabs even more space, occupying roughly a quarter of the screen when it's active.

Other programs go for the ears to get your attention. R U Sure (www.rusure.com) periodically announces itself with a robotic voice that becomes irritating in about a nanosecond; thankfully, you can switch it off. Both R U Sure and Clickthebutton tend to pop up at odd times. One program even alerted us to a 5-percent-off sale at Barnes & Noble when we visited the Windows Update page, of all places.

Also note that these products tend to slow system performance, especially if you run several at one time. Like other applications that work in the background, they deplete Windows resources and processor power. The best strategy is to try a few and choose your favorites, being careful not to run more than one or two at a time.

Ultimately, the utility of these shopping buddies comes down to a matter of taste and trade-offs. If you want a program to alert you to a better price or one-time deal automatically, you may have to put up with

SHOPPING SOFTWARE

an interface that's a bit meddlesome. But that could be worth the bother if it saves a few bucks.

Sample Sale

Shipping fees not included in results	Canon PowerShot S100 Digital Elph camera	Santana "Supernatural" CD	HP Deskjet 970Cxi printer
Aristocart	\$599.95	\$13.29	\$289.99
Clickthebutton	\$514	\$12.99	\$291
R U Sure	\$549.98	\$12.79	\$294.08

DETECTING DEALS

To find out just how helpful these shopping assistants are, we priced a digital camera, a CD, and a printer using the three programs that returned the most competitive prices.

PLAYING FAVORITES

Wonder how the companies that write these shopping programs make money? The business model varies, but they typically glean revenue from the very online vendors they evaluate, either through advertising fees or payments based on customer traffic directed to the vendors.

That means a conflict of interest is highly possible because the software developers can be totally reliant on this revenue. So don't assume that the information these programs display is impartial or comprehensive. The prices should be correct, but many retailers may not be included in the search.

Also, if you see a coupon or deal for a particular vendor, don't assume you can't beat it somewhere else. On the other hand, just because an Amazon.com or a Buy.com pays a software developer to offer you 10 percent off, there's no reason to turn up your nose at the discount.

Our goal was see how they fare at digging up the lowest price for each item and how easy they are to use.

Our first test product was the popular Canon PowerShot S100 Digital Elph camera. When we entered the product page

at Amazon.com, a Clickthebutton mini-window popped up almost immediately. After clicking the "Compare prices now" button, we discovered that Amazon's \$598.99 was one of the highest prices, though we could also see that Amazon was one of the highest-rated sites, according to the BizRate.com merchant rating system that Clickthebutton uses.

Clickthebutton listed Beach Cameras as the source of the lowest price, \$514 plus \$19 shipping. Only six sites were listed, and only one included the shipping price. (The others simply said we should "see site.")

R U Sure failed in its promise to launch automatically, so we manually entered the manufacturer and model. It found only one vendor: BrandsMall.com, with a price of \$549.98.

We performed another manual search using Aristocart. Typing the keyword "PowerShot S100," we scored 16 sites. Only two were for the camera itself; the other hits included cameras with similar names, such as the PowerShot S10, and accessories for the S100. The two vendor listings were MicroWarehouse and Outpost.com, and both were selling the camera for the full list price of \$599.95. Not exactly a bargain.

The second test product, the Grammy-winning album "Supernatural" by Santana, is a strong seller for most CD vendors. On entering the product page at CDNow, the Clickthebutton window launched to help out. Clickthebutton presented 14 different sites with prices that ranged from \$12.99 to \$16.40 without shipping.

Clickthebutton is one of the few shopping programs that includes both shipping costs and sales tax, providing an excellent example of how some vendors post a super-low price but build in a hefty profit with stratospheric shipping charges. For instance, the \$12.99 price at Paragon Music & Entertainment became \$19.49 when the site's alarmingly excessive \$6.50 shipping fee for regular mail was added.

Clickthebutton also included a price quote from an online dealer of used CDs, so we were given the chance to order a pre-owned copy from Half.com for \$7.90 without shipping, for a total of \$9.85 with shipping by regular mail.

Again, the R U Sure window didn't activate on its own, so we double-clicked the system-tray icon and tapped in the name of the album and artist. It found five sites selling the CD at prices ranging from \$12.79 to \$14.67 without shipping. Although R U Sure



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JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port
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PHOTO ENTHUSIAST

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FAMILY CHAMPION

PRESARIO 5000T-866

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JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port
2X AGP with 64-bit Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
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WEB SURFER

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JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port
2X AGP with 64-bit Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
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Trident CyberBlade Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
56K ITU V.90 PCI Modem³
NiMH Battery
128 KB Integrated "On-chip" Cache
Featuring Compaq.NET powered by MSN⁴

Personalize by choosing:

APC Notebook Surge Protector: Add \$29
Compaq Carrying Case: Add \$39

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didn't find a used version, it did list prices for an import edition of the album that ranged from \$12.79 to \$19.97. The best price according to R U Sure was \$12.79 at AllDirect.com.

Searching with the keywords of "Santana" and "Supernatural," we found six Web sites using Aristocart. Three of the six were mismatches. Of the three legitimate hits, the lowest price was \$13.29 without shipping from Borders.com.

SHOPPING SOFTWARE

The final test was an HP DeskJet 970Cxi, a popular midprice printer that's widely available on the Web. Clickthebutton faithfully popped up when we visited the product page at Buy.com, announcing 16 online vendors with prices ranging from \$291 to \$399.95. Shipping costs were provided for all but two of the sites and ranged

from a reasonable \$6.95 to an outrageous \$29.88. The best price, \$291 with \$13 shipping, came from Sparco.com, which received a four-out-of-five-star merchant rating from BizRate.com, according to the Clickthebutton listing.

This time, R U Sure automatically launched when we entered the product page. It found only six online vendors, however, with prices that ranged from \$294.08 to \$403.76. Even though R U Sure is capable of including shipping prices, in this case it was not able to determine the shipping costs for any of the six sites. The price of \$294.08 was from FirstMicro.

When we searched for "HP 970Cxi," Aristocart discovered 62 possible vendors, but only four had the printer we wanted. Of the four sites, the lowest price was \$289.99 without shipping from Computers4Sure.com. (Aristocart doesn't include shipping costs in its searches.)

These software programs dug up some pretty good deals, but it's worth noting that when we searched for the same products at mySimon, the site's shopping bot turned up lower prices each time, although the bot didn't return shipping fees for the camera or the printer.

ASSISTANCE OR ANNOYANCE?

Should you be using shopping software to help you find the lowest prices for online purchases? If you prefer to shop with a particular vendor, probably not. But if you buy based on price alone, it would be extremely tedious to find all the Web vendors and compare prices without some kind of help.

Our informal tests with three of the most-used shopping programs show that they aren't more powerful or comprehensive than the site-based shopping bots. But what shopping apps *do* offer is convenience: It's much easier to have a program pop up automatically whenever you enter a vendor's site or check out a specific product. On the other hand, we found that some of the programs popped up at inappropriate times, blocked portions of the browser window, slowed down our Web browsing, and even crashed Windows when providing an alert.

These shopping programs may be the first applications in what will eventually become a full-fledged software category, and they clearly deliver a needed service. You could easily save a hundred dollars or more on a single online order, so there's plenty of incentive to let them tag along on your online shopping trips. ▼

AUCTION AIDES

Buying—and selling—at auction can be vastly more complex than everyday online shopping. That's because you can become overwhelmed by all the information you need to track, especially if you're bidding in multiple auctions or have bids pending on several sites. Once the auctions close, you may need to track buyers, sellers, shipments, and payments.

Auction sites help you keep track of some of the information, but those who like to work several sites would do well to enlist the aid of an auction helper. Two of the more popular solutions are both called, appropriately enough, Auction Helper. One is a software package; the other is a Web site.

The Auction Helper program can track buyers, auction details, shipping data, and payment information. It can also print address labels for customer purchases, calculate your profits from multiple sales, create reports for items that haven't sold, and create reports for payments you haven't received. It costs \$24.95, and a demo version is available at the developer's site (members.nbci.com/jsamuels).

The AuctionHelper.com site (www.auctionhelper.com) is a Web-based auction-management system that automatically retrieves your items from the auction sites, computes shipping charges, tracks winners, and processes the invoices. It even creates a downloadable file that you can import into your credit-card-report program. Designed

for serious auctioneers rather than casual hobbyists, AuctionHelper.com charges a 1.5 percent fee for each item with a 15-cent minimum and 70-cent maximum charge.

If all you want to do is track your current auctions, you'll want to take a look at Envision Software's AuctionTamer (www.auctiontamer.com). It supports most of the popular auction sites, including Amazon.com, eBay, uBid, Yahoo, and ZDNet Auctions. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.) The program is a cus-

tomized browser that monitors the time tick, number of bids, and price change of the final bid. All the monitored items from the auction sites are displayed on a single, easy-to-read list. The program is free for auction buyers. Some seller features are included in the free version; addi-

tional seller features can be unlocked for \$19.95.

Another useful auction program, AuctionPoster.com's ePoster2000 (www.auctionposter.com), helps you generate auction listings for Amazon and eBay. Create professional listings using customized themes and templates, automatically upload pictures, and track the status of your auctions. You can download the program from the Web site and use it for free for 30 days. After that time, you'll need to pay a monthly fee based on the number of postings, with a minimum charge of \$3.33 a month.



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**ONLINE
PRIVACY** 

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he past few years have brought consumers reason to rejoice, as online shopping has become increasingly prevalent and convenient. Recently, though, there's been an undercurrent of unease beneath the elation. What happens to all that personal data you've entered at all those Web sites after the product reaches your door?

"Most likely, it's being stored in the databases of companies you've never heard of," notes the Electronic Frontier Foundation (www.eff.org), a digital-rights watchdog group. And the behavior of online marketers, coupled with a wave of recent security lapses involving personal information, has confirmed users' fears about the unethical use and unsafe storage of sensitive customer information.

Retailers collect digital information about you in a variety of ways, ranging from the straightforward to the downright sneaky. On the surface, some of these tactics seem no more intrusive than those used in old-media marketing for decades on subscription cards and warranty-registration forms. In other cases, though, the techniques used for gathering data, stealthily and without your consent, have no parallel in the pre-Internet world, and require new paradigms and tools for understanding and protecting against them.

WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

Perhaps the most up-front method of gathering demographic and opinion data is simply to ask you for it, through surveys and other online forms that explicitly request information. Most site designers realize that a "Fill out a lengthy form for our marketing database" link won't produce many clicks, so you'll often see surveys formulated as contests, with prizes awarded as incentives for giving out personal information. Even more common are sites that require registration before you can browse or place an order, with survey questions liberally sprinkled throughout the registration form. This is especially true of the recent plethora of no-fee ISPs and ASPs, many of which bombard you with lengthy personal inquiries before you can enjoy their "free" services.

Indeed, asking marketing questions seems to be some of these sites' reason for being.

Another unsurprising source of consumer data is your buying record. When you buy something online, the retailer naturally keeps a record of your purchase; otherwise, it couldn't provide adequate customer service. This is something credit-card companies have been doing for years through brick-and-mortar purchases, but with the rise of online commerce, we've reached a point where virtually every purchase is instantly recorded in a database for fast, easy retrieval.

"So someone knows what I bought online," you say. "Big deal." The fact is, even if you don't buy anything or submit any forms, you may be sending out information simply by surfing, without agreeing to do so and without even realizing it. By engaging in this passive tracking of your surfing activity, also known as "clickstream," online merchants can keep tabs not only on what you bought, but on what you thought of buying, judging from the sites you viewed.

The ubiquitous passive-tracking enabler is the cookie, created by Netscape as an aid to personalizing Web sessions. A site may need to check whether you're logged in before allowing you to access a registration-only area, for instance. Or it just may wish to display a page differently based on your personal preferences, or simply print "Hello, Jane!" at the top of the page. In such cases, a site needs to keep track of who you are—not necessarily your actual identity, but simply the fact that the user viewing page B is the same user who just viewed page A. To accomplish this, it sends a cookie to your computer, containing a code that uniquely identifies you or your current session. That same site can read the cookie from your browser whenever you move to a new page.

Cookies aren't inherently harmful. On the contrary, they're an excellent way for a site to track a visit across multiple pages. To you, this means not having to reenter your user ID and password every time you want to do something like add a new item to your shopping cart. Most cookies simply store an identifying code that's meaningless to all but the database on that site's server, so it's not as if anyone can glean your credit-card number or other sensitive data from the cookie file.

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

by Kevin Shay

Snoops



You may be
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shop online, but
marketers want
to know what
you're up to—
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**ONLINE
PRIVACY** 

The reputation of cookies began to crumble when advertisers began using them across sites in a concealed and unscrupulous fashion. Not every piece of a Web page comes from the same Internet host. Images, particularly ad banners, are often delivered by a different company entirely, and browsers allow these third-party servers to set and read cookies. The most notorious peddler of third-party cookies is DoubleClick. DoubleClick serves up ads for a vast number of sites, including some of the largest. The company uses this to its advantage by sending cookies along with its ads, and using these cookies to track and log user activity not only within a given site but across *all* sites that run DoubleClick ads. Other marketing firms, including MatchLogic and Engage, have adopted similar tactics. These companies don't stop at ad banners, either. They also use "Web bugs"—tiny, invisible images embedded within a page—to help ad networks track your online movements. Regardless of whether you click on the ad or not, your browser needs to load the invisible image, so it sends a request to

the image server, which may then log the request—and any other available information on your machine.

WHY DO THEY CARE?

You've seen the lengths some Web sites will go to for information about your surfing habits. This is only the tip of the iceberg. Behind the scenes, the hardware and software required to archive and analyze these mountains of data represent an enormous expenditure of computing resources and programming expertise. Is it worth it?

What are companies doing with your private data that justifies the effort, expense, and potential bad PR of gathering it? Many public-interest groups committed to preserving digital privacy are working on getting businesses to answer that question. For the time being, however, the short answer is: "Whatever they want."

These companies store your personal information in one of two ways: as part of a pool of aggregated data, or as part of a personal profile that identifies you. Aggregated information is grouped into demographic categories—for instance, how many women ages 26 to 40 clicked through from page X to page Y—but is not personally identifiable. The database doesn't know it was *you* who went from X to Y.

Individually tagged data represents a far greater threat to personal privacy than aggregated data. Unfortunately, many consumers, and, in some cases, the sites themselves, don't understand this distinction.

To find out what a site is doing, or claims it's doing, with the data it collects, read the privacy policy. A thorough policy will enumerate all the data a site collects, break down which of this information it stores in personally identifiable form, and which is merely aggregated. It will also identify to which organizations, if any, the site may disclose or sell each piece of data, and tell you how you can get a copy of the personal information the site has stored about you.

Don't assume you're okay simply because there's a policy, though. Even though 90 percent of the most heavily trafficked commercial sites have privacy policies, only 20 percent meet all the Federal Trade Commission's standards for fair information practice, according to a recent FTC study. (The FTC has defined four fair information practice principles: notice, choice, access, and security. For more on these principles, go to www.ftc.gov/reports/privacy3/fairinfo.htm.)

What's more, privacy policies aren't legally binding, so just because a site says it isn't going to tell anyone how many Danielle Steel novels you bought doesn't mean it can't.

Many sites use the results of their tracking to attempt to make your online shopping experience more convenient. Amazon.com (www.amazon.com), for instance, provides suggestions about books, music, and other merchandise based on what you're purchasing. But it also sells your data to other online vendors and marketing companies. Indeed, the ability to collect and sell vast amounts of demographic information is a key component of many sites' business models. With data on your background, lifestyle, and purchasing habits, marketers can target you with ads for products you're likely to buy. The level of tracking DoubleClick and its brethren achieve goes a step further, as their cookies allow them or their commercial partners to show you ads based on your online behavior.

REASON TO FEAR

Even armed with all the facts about databases, cookies, and Web bugs (oh my!), many users remain blasé. After all, the shopping suggestions Amazon makes, or even the ads DoubleClick targets to you, can be helpful at best, annoying at worst. And even if the companies sell your name to marketers, they can't force you to buy anything.

Such nonchalance is shortsighted, even though some privacy zealots may overhype the danger of things like cookies. So far, we've discussed online privacy as if personal data were accessible only by those collecting it, or those with whom they deliberately share it, and only for the intended purpose, however ethical it may be. But this is an erroneous and dangerous assumption.

Digital information can find its way into unauthorized hands in many ways. Unencrypted transmissions can be observed as they travel the Internet. Browsers, servers, and customer databases are susceptible to security-threatening bugs—a fact made clear by a glance at the CERT Coordination Center (www.cert.org) or Computer Incident Advisory Capability (ciac.llnl.gov) sites, which track software vulnerabilities. Even if the software works perfectly, an employee with privileged access to the database can commandeer data, or be deceived into revealing it over the phone. Even the largest companies, including Microsoft, AT&T, and AOL, have suffered security breaches.

If your credit-card number should fall into the wrong hands, though, don't despair: Federal law limits your liability for any unauthorized credit-card use to \$50.

Public Information On Privacy Issues

Here are some great Web resources for protecting your personal information.

▶ **Electronic Frontier Foundation**

(www EFF.org) educates the public about, and lobbies for, a wide range of digital rights and freedoms. Bookmark its "Top 12 Ways to Protect Your Online Privacy."

▶ **Electronic Privacy Information Center**

(www.epic.org) and the **Privacy Foundation** (www.privacyfoundation.org) are public-interest groups specializing in online privacy. Both offer up-to-the-minute news bulletins and in-depth resource materials.

▶ **The American Bar Association**

has created **Safeshopping.org** (www.safeshopping.org), a helpful site for online consumers.

▶ **PrivacyPlace** (www.privacyplace.com)

features thought-provoking opinion columns and feature articles.

▶ **The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse**

(www.privacyrights.org) covers privacy issues such as wiretapping and junk mail.

▶ **Cookie Central** (www.cookiecentral.com)

offers information about the uses and abuses of browser cookies.

▶ **Privacy.net** (www.privacy.net)

features instructive demonstrations of how cross-site monitoring works.

**ONLINE
PRIVACY****PROTECT YOURSELF**

Short of unplugging your computer and going back to brick-and-mortar shopping, what steps can you take to protect your online privacy? First and foremost, choose your shopping sites carefully. If you're considering buying from a less established vendor, do a little research first. Sites such as Gómez.com (www.gomez.com), Shop Online 123 (www.shoponline123.com), and eSmarts (www.esmarts.com) offer independent ratings of online sellers.

Some sites have their privacy policies evaluated by TRUSTe (www.truste.com), whose online seal program purports to ensure a site follows certain privacy principles. The venerable Better Business Bureau (www.bbbonline.org) offers a similar seal. In practice, no such voluntary program can do much to ensure companies actually adhere to their policies. Still, an e-tailer that's gone to the trouble of getting certified has probably at least given some thought to its privacy policy.

When filling out any online form, make sure you aren't opting in to anything you don't want. Pay careful attention to any checkboxes or radio buttons on the form that let you specify whether you want your information to be shared or sold. Such options may be phrased either positively or negatively—"please give out my name" vs. "don't give out my name"—and the default setting isn't always opt-out, although it should be on any ethical site. Take a moment to read the text carefully before submitting the form, and

make sure you know what you're agreeing to. (Keep in mind that opt-out clauses, like privacy policies, aren't legally binding. For some additional steps you can take when filling out forms, see the sidebar "Before You Hit 'Submit.'")

If you have some trepidation about sending your credit-card number into cyberspace, look into one of the new online payment methods that have been gaining popularity. Several companies have developed alternative online payment systems. Most of them—including Yahoo Wallet (wallet.yahoo.com), Microsoft Wallet (part of some versions of Internet Explorer), CyberCash (www.cybercash.com), and eCharge (www.echarge.com)—work as advertised. But each can be used only at certain retailers, and the market shows no signs of selecting a standard anytime soon.

PrivateBuy (www.privatebuy.com) takes a different and promising approach. After you prepay into a PrivateBuy account, you can shop at any online store that accepts MasterCard. You're given an anonymous account number and billing address, so the retailer never sees your personal data, other than your shipping address. This method combines privacy and convenience, and it seems more likely to catch on than a proprietary "online cash" system.

If you want to surf without companies

tracking your clickstream, you can find a wealth of options for thwarting cookies. Within your browser, you'll find preference settings to disable or selectively enable cookies. Disabling them entirely will prevent you from shopping at many sites. Future browser versions will have increasingly sophisticated cookie-handling options. The Macintosh version of Internet Explorer 5.0, for instance, provides a handy interface for viewing and deleting cookies.

For more control, programs such as the Internet Junkbuster Proxy (www.junkbuster.com) can filter incoming ads, cookies, and other unwanted detritus. And anonymous-surfing sites, such as Anonymizer.com (www.anonymizer.com) and Rewebber (www.rewebber.de), prevent sites you visit from passing your personal information to and fro. For the ultimate in privacy, check out full-featured "infomediary" proxies such as Zero-Knowledge Systems' \$49.95 Freedom (www.freedom.net), which lets you use the Web, e-mail, and other Internet services under multiple secure aliases.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

Most analysts agree the long-term solution will come in the form of federal legislation to force companies to adhere to privacy standards, though this idea is hotly debated. Most European countries have already passed laws to this effect; in the United States, however, the pressure to keep the government's hands off the Net is more intense. But many of the same individuals and groups who usually oppose federal intervention in the Internet's operation are among those clamoring for regulation. The public is certainly receptive to the notion, according to a recent Pew Internet & American Life Project poll, which found that 86 percent of Internet users favor some restrictions.

Some kind of regulation seems inevitable. But what form it will take, and how long we'll have to wait for it, are open questions. The industry—the companies that now have a free hand to gather data—seem ready to accept privacy legislation, but only in its more toothless incarnations. A bill to establish a Federal Privacy Commission has already been defeated, and even the bipartisan Consumer Privacy Enforcement Act, which stops well short of the more stringent requirements advocated by most privacy groups, has been tabled until the Senate's 2001 session. For now, the privacy of any personal information you divulge deliberately or otherwise as you shop online remains a matter of trust. ▼

Before You Hit 'Submit'

Know the rules before completing Web forms.

Make sure any form that asks for a credit-card number is secure. Look for an "s" after the "http" in the URL and a closed-lock icon at the bottom left of the browser window. If the site doesn't offer a secure connection for its payment forms, shop elsewhere.

Consider setting up a free e-mail account with Yahoo (mail.yahoo.com), Hotmail (www.hotmail.com), or a similar service. Use it only for online purchasing; this way, if the address ends up on any undesired mailing lists, the resulting spam will be easier to ignore.

Most registration forms make some questions optional. If the required fields

aren't marked, submit a blank form and note the error messages that come back. Questions that seem uncomfortably personal—for instance, those about your household income or weekly alcohol intake—are most likely optional, so simply ignore them. If the questions aren't optional, consider not filling out the form. Lying is another option. Never give out your Social Security number online; no online merchant should need it.

If you surf in the workplace, be aware that the information you just entered in a browser window may still be accessible by hitting the Back button, and you may still be logged in to a site even after surfing elsewhere. Always use the site's "log out" option, then close the browser, before leaving your computer.

Internet Explorer's AutoComplete feature pops up previously entered values for a given form field when you type the first few letters. For maximum security, disable AutoComplete for forms.





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All You Need Is Love (And a Few Good URLs)

Transcend the traditional this Valentine's Day—take to the Web to find a unique way to show your care.

by Anita Gates

There's nothing wrong with flowers and candy on Valentine's Day. They're easy to find and almost always welcome, unless your valentine has a floral allergy or a strict dietary regimen. But if you want to buck the holiday tradition, hop online, and you'll find that a couple of quick clicks will yield plenty of innovative and interesting ways to say "I love you."

Take, for instance, a romantically themed basket of assorted food goodies from **The Best To You** (www.thebesttoyou.com). The "Wild About You" basket (\$85) includes "jungle punch," Rainforest Crunch candy, nuts, cookies, and macadamia popcorn. For Valentine's Day, the basket comes complete with a festive bow with a red-hearts pattern. The "Fireside" basket (\$160) includes assorted hot beverages and food treats for a cold winter's night, plus an afghan for Valentine cuddling.

Speaking of romantic evenings (and food), you can surprise your better half with a romantic dinner at home even if cooking isn't your forte. For \$159.99, including overnight FedEx delivery, **The Lobster Guy** (www.thelobsterguy.com) will ship a live lobster dinner for two (4 pounds total), 1 pound of fresh shrimp with cocktail sauce, clam chowder, and lobster bisque. You'll also get all the necessary accompaniments: lemon, lobster forks and picks, and a crystal candleholder and candle. It's all prepared fresh in Rhode Island on shipping day.

A note to the gentlemen: A Valentine's Day gift should be personal (please, no tools or small appliances), and there's nothing more personal than gorgeous lingerie. **Victoria's Secret** (www.victoriasecret.com) has great



Woo with food from **The Best To You**.

gift recommendations that are bound to create some heat lasting way past Valentine's Day. She might like a satiny shawl-collar robe in Valentine's red (or any of five quieter colors) for \$88, or a \$58 black Chantilly lace string teddy.

If your Valentine is a he, and you seek that passion that only a gift of intimate apparel can spark, don't despair—try **Intimo** (www.intimo.com) for glimmering bikini briefs (\$10) or animal-pattern velour thongs (\$12). Get several; they're cheap.

Another sure-fire Valentine's gift is perfume or cologne. **La Parfumerie** (www.laparfumerie.com) has a wide selection of men's and women's fragrances, including favorites like Romance by Ralph Lauren, Gentleman by Givenchy, and Estée Lauder's Pleasures. And if you're the adventurous type, check the site for tips on creating your own fragrances.

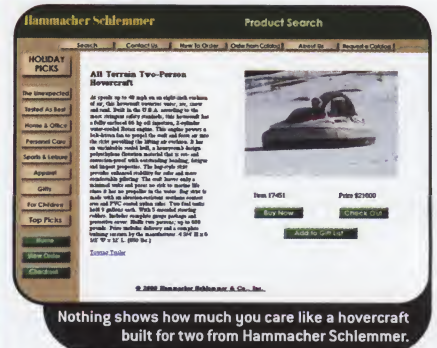
You could go one step further and get her something lovely to hold her favorite fragrance. **Apex Stores** (www.apexstores.com) has a Waterford Sweet Memories perfume bottle with heart-shaped stopper for \$29. Other Waterford perfume bottles are \$45 and \$98.

For the man or woman who has everything but still wants more, **Hammacher Schlemmer** is a long-standing favorite. If you search for gifts on the store's site (www.hammacher.com), you'll find unique and luxurious items that include electrically heated gloves, mittens, and socks, for him or her (\$26.95 to \$39.95); a dual-jet instant bath spa (\$89.95); or, for the adventurous and affluent, an all-terrain hovercraft built for two (\$21,000).

You could truly woo your loved one with a



Get lucky in the Orient with a trip from **Abercrombie & Kent**.



Nothing shows how much you care like a hovercraft built for two from Hammacher Schlemmer.

spectacular Circline Art Deco glass vase (\$3,400) at **LuxuryFinder** (www.luxuryfinder.com). The site also offers estate jewelry, gift baskets, a cashmere boutique, and romantic vacations.

Surely, the seven-day biking trip in the Loire Valley, at \$4,390 per person, arranged by **Butterfield & Robinson** (www.butterfieldandrobinson.com), would cement or renew your relationship. You're also probably bound to score with the 16-day Oriental Capitals tour (\$5,530 per person) offered by **Abercrombie & Kent** (www.abercrombiekent.com); for Valentine's trips, double occupancy is presumed.

If you're still saving for a weekend in the Catskills, consider an evening at home with a hopelessly romantic movie. **Critics' Choice Video** (www.ccvideo.com) has a wide selection of chick flicks on VHS and DVD, including *Sleepless in Seattle*, *The Way We Were*, *Titanic*, and that sappy favorite, *Gone With the Wind*.

On Valentine's Day, even sane and mature adults can get cute to the point of

teddy bears. **Bear Island** (www.bearisland.com) has a bunch of them, including classics like Gund's 14-inch light-brown Bearface (\$30). For macho men who can love a bear only if there's some athletic connection, check out the selection of 13-inch sports bears from Tender Heart. The baseball, golf, tennis, ski, hunter, and jogger varieties are \$39.95; inexplicably, the hockey and soccer bears cost slightly less.

No man is too manly for cream puffs, tarts, or macaroons.

And **Annie B's Confections** (www.anniebs.com) has them all, plus a host of other delectable desserts, including strawberry rhubarb pie and "the world's best brownie cake." And if things work out, you can log on again later to order your wedding cake.

If you decide to surrender to tradition and give chocolate, try **Teuscher Chocolates of Switzerland** (www.teuscherchocolate.com). Valentine Hearts Fantasy Packages start at \$33.50. But for those spending February 14 in lonely-hearts mode, you'll want to order the biggest box they have. ▼



Snuggle up with a loved one (and a classic) from **Critics' Choice Video**.

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considerations when Band9, an E-tailer based in Vancouver, Washington went to work spending over \$16 million in venture capital. Caliber Voyager servers with Intel Architecture played a central role in meeting the company's goals. By investing in six Intel® Pentium® III Xeon™ quad processor-based servers from Caliber, the company instantly acquired the power and scalability it needed in anticipation of its explosive growth. And because these powerful servers cost less than Unix-based boxes, Band9 could afford to launch a marketing campaign to build brand awareness for the new company.

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Voyager Power Server SC400

Voyager

Power Server SC400

\$6,499.00

System Specification

- Intel® Pentium® III Xeon™ Processor 1GHz
- Supports up to four Intel® Pentium® III Xeon™ processors
- 256MB EDO ECC DRAM Memory (Max 16GB)
- 2x18GB SCSI HD
- Two hot-swap HD bays supports ten 1" (or six 1.6") HD
- Integrated two Ultra160 SCSI, one Ultra Narrow channel/Ultra Wide channel
- Integrated Intel® Pro/100+ Fast Ethernet Controller
- Integrated graphics with 2MB SGRAM
- Eight total available PCI slots (two 64 bit/66MHz, four 64 bit/33MHz & two 32 bit/33MHz hot-swap)
- 1.44MB floppy drive with three 5.25" peripheral drive bays
- Three (2+1 redundant) 375-watt hot swap power supply
- Six (3+3 redundant) electronics bay fans
- Intel® Server Control Software and Management hardware
- Supports most popular OS

Voyager

Server ISP4400

\$5,299.00

System Specification

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1GHz
- Quad processor capable
- 4U rack-mount chassis
- 128MB ECC SDRAM Memory (Max 16GB)
- 30GB EIDE hard disk drive
- Supports 2x1.6" and 2x1" or 4x1" 3.5" SCA hot swap drives
- Integrated two Ultra160 SCSI, one Ultra Narrow Channel/Ultra Wide channel
- Integrated Intel® Pro/100+ Fast Ethernet Controller
- Integrated graphics with 2MB SGRAM
- 1.44MB floppy drive with optional slimline CD ROM Drive
- Hot-swap HD bay supports five 1" (or three 1.6") HD
- Three (2+1 redundant) 350-watt hot swap power supply
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REVIEWS**

SITE REVIEWS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

COMPILED BY KEVIN SAVETZ AND ABIGAIL CRANE

PC SHOPPING SITES

The sites in this listing sell products from multiple manufacturers. See the sites under "PC Direct Vendors," or check the *Computer Shopper Source Directory* (cgi.zdnet.com/slink?8145) for more information on PC manufacturers offering only their own brands (such as Dell and Gateway).

aberdeeninc.com

thumbs up volume pricing • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Serving the savvy consumer who craves technical information, **Aberdeen** offers extensive specs on a wide variety of computers and accessories.

accessmicro.com

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Shoppers will enjoy the selection at **AccessMicro.com**, which offers 45,000 items ranging from memory to T1 routers. The help desk and hardware guide provide aid to first-time visitors.



www.applied-computer.com

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thumbs down handling fee on orders under \$200

Selling PCs and supplies since 1984, **Applied Computer** promises to match or beat any advertised price. The company stocks 800,000 products—check the site's list of the 1,000 most popular ones.



blackbox.com

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Specializing in cabling and network-connectivity products, **Black Box's** extensive 900-page catalog of storage, LAN, switch, surge-protection, and other accessories can be viewed online or off.

buy.com

thumbs up price-matching policy • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

You'll find everything from computers and software to electronics, books, movies, music, and video games at this monstrous, multifaceted site. **Buy.com** sells a whopping 850,000 items. Despite the site's mind-blowing selection, shopping is fast and efficient.

cdw.com

thumbs up list of rebates and coupons
• business leasing options available
• smooth navigation • easy ordering

CDW offers an impressive array of hardware and software. The comparison tool lets shoppers create side-by-side comparisons in many product categories.

compgeeks.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

Shop at **The Computer Geeks Discount Outlet** for discontinued and refurbished computer gear—it's a trove for anyone piecing together a PC. The varied selection features complete specs on every product and low prices.

compuplus.com

thumbs up good return policy

Comp-U-Plus highlights its customer service, offering a 30-day money-back guarantee and free technical support. Its catalog isn't the biggest, but plenty of name brands are represented, and prices are reasonable.

compusa.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

CompUSA is a well-organized site offering a fair amount of PC hardware, peripherals, and accessories, with electronics, software, and gadgets rounding out the selection. Don't overlook the site's clearance section.

computercomputer.com

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www.computergate.com

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In business since 1991, **ComputerGate** offers a 30-day satisfaction return policy on its products, which include built-to-order PCs and peripherals.

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You'll benefit from more than mere numbers on a scorecard. Quarterly reviews explain trends and detail key benefits and drawbacks for each site. Profiles offer company contact information, background about

the firm, and CEO biographies. These facts paint a clear picture of the companies, so you can make an informed decision about doing business with them.

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KBkids.com www.kbkids.com

Yahoo Auctions auctions.yahoo.com

The 17 well-stocked departments at **Computers4Sure.com** include networking equipment, peripherals, PDAs, scanners, and more—the selection spans 60,000 products. Bargain hunters can quickly sniff out deals on the Special Offers and Clearance pages.

computershopper.com

smooth navigation

Computer Shopper's own computer-buying site, **computershopper.com**, provides access to product reviews, interactive guides to choosing a desktop or a notebook, and How to Buy sections for the most popular product categories.



www.computer surplusoutlet.com

consignment service
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Frugal shoppers and do-it-yourselfers will feel at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet**. The company sells closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items at low prices. You can find complete, assembly-required Pentium systems for less than \$100.

crucial.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

One of the world's largest providers of memory upgrades, **Crucial Technology** offers nearly 50,000 upgrade options for 10,000 computer systems. The site's Memory Selector helps buyers find the right product, and the company backs its memory with a lifetime warranty.

cyberrebate.com

"100% Off" tab shows 900 products whose rebates equal their cost
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good return policy
rebates take 10 to 14 weeks to process

CyberRebate.com only sells products that come with money-back rebates. You'll find a small selection of computer accessories and software. In addition, the site offers electronics, office supplies, and toys.

cyberwarehouse.com

smooth navigation • good return policy
may take up to three days to ship

If you're the kind of shopper who can't pass up a bargain-basement sale or an outlet mall, this site may be for you. **CyberWarehouse** offers PCs, monitors, printers, and other peripherals.

dalco.com

smooth navigation

Dalco stocks everything from motherboards to monitors. Bargain hunters will want to start with the specials, which are shown on the home page and change regularly.

dartek.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

With a roster of more than 100,000 products, **Dartek** peddles an impressive selection of hardware, software, networking equipment, and furniture. Thoughtful features include printable spec sheets, customers' product ratings, and a product-watch feature. Shoppers can earn hardware or frequent-flyer miles by joining the frequent-buyers club.

direct411.com

easy ordering • smooth navigation

Direct411 offers an impressive selection of 50,000 in-stock hardware and software products. The catalog includes servers, memory upgrades, storage devices, digital cameras, and software.

dirtcheapdrives.com

detailed archive of technical-support information • quantity discounts available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

If you can store data on it, this site sells it. **Dirt Cheap Drives** offers deals on hard drives, CD-ROM and DVD hardware, drive arrays, and hard-to-find laptop storage. This 10-year-old company also stocks mounting kits, media, and other accessories.

SITE REVIEWS

ecost.com

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The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full realm of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use systems, peripherals, accessories, software, and games. Featured specials in each category point shoppers to the best deals, and fastidiously organized subcategories help them find the exact products they need.

egghead.com

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Egghead.com shoppers can browse the hardware, software, office-product, and electronics superstores. You can also buy home electronics and leisure products.

www.electrified.com

30-day guarantee on all items
se habla español • good return policy

Looking for deep discounts on older laptops, notebooks, monitors, and printers? **Electrified Discounters** specializes in products that are discontinued, second-inventory, refurbished, off-lease, or otherwise not state-of-the-art. Systems range from new Pentium II laptops to under-\$200 used 486s.

elinux.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **eLinux.com** site offers hardware and software for users of the Linux operating system. Desktop and notebook systems for sale here have been tested with Linux and don't come bundled with that "other" OS.

www.firstsource.com

real-time online customer service
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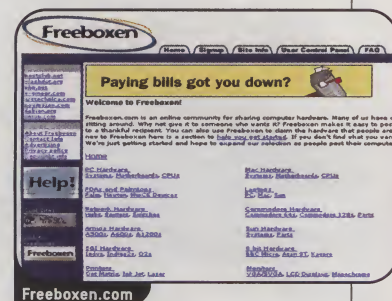
Focused on the technology needs of businesses, **firstsource.com** offers a broad range of choices in computer hardware, rack-mount systems, network tools, phone systems, wiring, and software.



freeboxen.com

smooth navigation

Freeboxen.com is a one-of-a-kind online community for sharing computer hardware. Browse the listings in search of hardware that others are giving away or offering for trade. If you have old hardware to spare, place a free ad to find it a good home.



globalcomputer.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Global Computer Supplies features same-day shipping on a gargantuan selection of PC components, accessories, software, furniture, and media. Well-stocked and exceptionally easy to navigate, the site offers one-stop shopping for PC and office needs.

gogocity.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

You'll get beyond **GoGoCity.com's** funny name when you see its excellent selection of computer hardware. You'll find desktop and notebook computers, peripherals, software, and PC accessories of all types. Detailed product information, often with pictures, rounds out the catalog.



insight.com

separate sites for the U.S., Canada, U.K., and Germany
smooth navigation • easy ordering

With more than 100,000 items, **Insight** offers an impressive and easy-to-navigate catalog of hardware and software products. More than 100 free newsletters feature new-product news, closeout specials, and tech news.

www.jandr.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Hardware, software, home-office products, and appliances abound at **J&R Computer World**, making this a one-stop shop for many. You'll also find a huge selection of digital and traditional film cameras.



laptoptravel.com

smooth navigation

Laptop Travel sells portable-computing and international travel gear, including electrical adapters, modem converters and couplers, and security accessories. You'll find both traditional and "camouflaged" laptop carrying cases, laptop RAM, and storage add-ons.

thelinuxstore.com

smooth navigation

If your PC is penguin-powered, **TheLinuxStore.com** might be your place to shop. The site offers a small selection of hardware and software that's compatible with the popular alternative operating system. The community area offers Linux news, free downloads, and Web links.



mcglen.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

McGlen Micro's specialized searches can help you find memory and other accessories compatible with your computer, printer, and copier. Shoppers can design a custom system to be built and shipped in two days.

www.mediasourceinc.com

Media Source single-mindedly specializes in computer media. You'll find CD-Rs, bulk floppies, optical discs, Zip disks, Jaz disks, DATs, and more. You'll also find an impressive selection of writable CDs, including brand-name and generic disks, business-card CD-Rs, and printable media.

megahaus.com

lifetime technical support on all products • CD-mastering and other utility software • smooth navigation

MegaHaus calls itself "the drive authority." It offers a wide variety of storage solutions, including hard drives, DVD drives, RAID, and removable storage. A technical-information area features FAQs and specifications on hardware ranging from DVD players to drive brackets.

mei-microcenter.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

MEI-Micro Center offers new and refurbished desktops from Compaq, eMachines, Hewlett-Packard, and PowerSpec. There's also a small selection of peripherals. Rummage around the bargain bin for deals on closeouts, refurbished units, and overstocks.

memman.com

all memory carries a lifetime warranty • good return policy

When it's time to upgrade the memory in your desktop or laptop, don't forget **Memory Man**. Besides memory chips, the site sells processors, motherboards, hard drives, heat sinks, and batteries for many types of notebooks.



SITE REVIEWS

memory4less.com

company tests all products shipped • smooth navigation

Memory4Less offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM, including older, hard-to-find types. If you don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera, it will tell you. The site also sells CPUs, motherboards, and laptop hard drives.

microx-press.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

MicroX-Press offers detailed information about most products, as well as a handy "E-mail me when this product is priced at..." feature and a configuration tool. Customers are invited to rate and review products they've tried.

www.mobile-mania.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Digital cameras, e-mail devices, PDAs, cases, and adapters of all sorts are available for folks on the go at **Mobile Mania**.

mobileplanet.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Offering gadgets for mobile professionals, **MobilePlanet** is home to a gaggle of high-tech tools and toys. The selection includes handheld and notebook computers, PDAs, wireless communication products, and travel-size printers and scanners—plus countless accessories for each.

mobshop.com

smooth navigation

MobShop offers group-buying discounts on computer hardware, software, PDAs, and home electronics. As more customers buy a product within a specified time period, the price drops for all buyers.

motherboards.com

smooth navigation

With a wide selection of motherboards from nine manufacturers, do-it-yourselfers can pick the perfect innards for their new PCs at **Motherboards.com**. This Web store offers CPUs, memory, graphics cards, drives, and other internal essentials.



www.mwave.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Multiwave Direct's friendly site sells a multitude of hardware and software products. In addition to PC systems and peripherals, this Web store stocks notebook accessories, videoconferencing equipment, and network tools.

neutronet.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Neutron carries thousands of computer systems and peripherals from nearly 400 different manufacturers and distributors. The site's handy toolbox offers easy access to best buys, help for first-time buyers, and a massive manufacturer directory.

www.notebooksuperstore.com

devoted exclusively to portable computers • easy ordering • smooth navigation

Notebook Superstore sells 50 different laptop models from nine manufacturers. You'll see technical details about

each model, and a comparison tool helps you zero in on the best portable for your needs.

123cdc.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Computer Discount Center offers a wide variety of PC add-ons, including storage, digital cameras, and displays. Shoppers will find competitive prices and detailed product information.

onvia.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering
good return policy

Onvia.com, a business-to-business marketplace, offers many features that distinguish it as a small-business resource and computer-products store. The site's selection of computer hardware, software, and office products spans 37,000 items. The site also includes a Request for Quote marketplace, buying guides, and auctions.

outpost.com

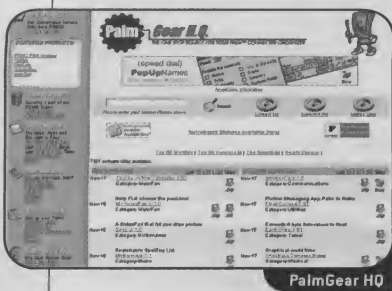
smooth navigation • easy ordering
good return policy

The breadth of products at **Outpost.com** will impress. The site sells a wide selection of computer hardware and software, personal electronics, and office products. The company works hard to earn customer satisfaction with policies like a 30-day money-back guarantee and free overnight delivery.

palmgear.com

mailing lists offer news, specials, and user tips • smooth navigation

Palm-device users will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial downloadable programs at **PalmGear HQ**. The site features lists of the newest Palm programs, as well as essential software picks. Shoppers can buy handheld hardware and accessories, including carrying cases and stylus.



pcconnection.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

In business for more than 15 years, **PC Connection** offers good deals on a colossal variety of products. Smart Selectors ease the searching process for shoppers looking for systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

pcmall.com

free lifetime technical support
smooth navigation • easy ordering

Many folks are familiar with **PC Mall's** thick, colorful catalog, and the online version is just as dense. PC Mall has a vast selection of computers, hardware, and software.

pcprogress.com

smooth navigation

If you're in the market for components and peripherals, check out **PC Progress**. The site specializes in cost-effective memory. You'll find a large selection, including notebook, iMac, and printer RAM.

pcstop.com

This purveyor of hardware and software offers 50,000 computer-related products from 1,300 manufacturers. **PCstop.com** offers a wealth of details about each product, including technical support and warranty information.

pcwonders.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering
no telephone orders

At **pcWonders.com**, you'll find more than 120,000 hardware and software products. Additional categories include car audio, home electronics, and bargain blowouts.

pczone.com

printable rebate coupons
smooth navigation • easy ordering

PC Zone boasts an impressive product selection of all things PC-related, including desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, storage devices, CPU upgrades, and network equipment—not to mention PDAs, digital cameras, and MP3 players. You'll also find links to a clearance area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Electronics Zone**.

SITE REVIEWS

provantage.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Provantage offers PC products from more than 1,000 manufacturers. The selection includes software, hardware, books, and training materials. The site's Personal Tracking List feature lets customers build a list of product bookmarks, then monitor the products' prices and availability.

www.qualityclick.com

easy ordering • good return policy

The **Quality Click** Web store covers all the basics for PC users, including hardware, networking supplies, accessories, and software. Technical support is available through a toll-free phone number, fax, or e-mail.

shopper.cnet.com

smooth navigation

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The site tracks the prices of more than 200,000 products in 100 stores. (CNET Networks is **Computer Shopper's** parent company.)

shoppingplanet.com

smooth navigation

Do-it-yourselfers will appreciate **Shopping Planet's** inventory of bare-bones systems, add-on cards, and kits. An arm of the site that specializes in software and hardware for the Linux operating system is available at shoppingplanet.com/cm/linux.asp.

www.sparco.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Sparco.com's catalog of more than 130,000 products makes it simple to shop for computer equipment. Looking for that something extra? Check out the list of products that come bundled with "free stuff."

www.spiderglass.com

Spider Gear offers new and refurbished computers, cameras, home audio and video products, car audio items, and appliances. A \$10 optional

membership entitles you to reduced prices, an annual rebate, and more.

www.ssdonline.com

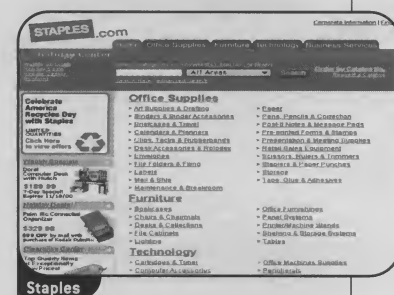
smooth navigation

At **State Street Direct's** Web store, shoppers will discover a huge selection of consumer electronics, in addition to computers and imaging products. Digital photographers will find many items of interest.

staples.com

liberal price-matching policy
smooth navigation • easy ordering
good return policy

Even if a **Staples** store is just down the block, you might prefer this elegant Web site when shopping for computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized lists to avoid filling out a new form every time.



2for1inkjet.com

free shipping on orders of six or more items, or at least \$200 • smooth navigation • good return policy

If your printer is putting you in the poorhouse, pay a visit to **2 For 1 Inkjet**, where you'll find two-for-one supplies for every brand of inkjet and laser printer, copier, and fax machine.

3re.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Specializing in used computers and rebuilt electronic equipment, **3Re.com** takes open-box returns from original equipment manufacturers, and repairs and repackages the machines. Offerings include desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, network equipment, and software.



tccomputers.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

In business since 1988, **TC Computers** sells fully configured systems, motherboards, and name-brand peripherals. The company's specialty is motherboards: It tests each one prior to shipping and bundles a step-by-step installation video.

tcwo.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • good return policy

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet Center offers "wholesale computer parts to the public." The selection is small—you may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives—but the prices are fantastic. Browse the selection or print out a complete price sheet for easy reference.

**techstore.com**

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

TechStore offers hardware in dozens of categories, ranging from CPU upgrades to storage devices. The site also offers a wide range of software—everything from Microsoft applications to children's titles.

thortek.com

thumbs up smooth navigation

An array of computer accessories awaits **ThorTek** shoppers, including hard drives, notebook upgrades, peripherals, and software.

tigerdirect.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

TigerDirect's site offers custom-built computers, tested and shipped within 48 hours. Shoppers in the mood for an adventure can order a build-it-yourself custom PC kit.

truedataonline.com

thumbs up smooth navigation

True Data Technology's selection spans desktops, laptops, and palmtops, with an exceptional catalog of motherboards, hard drives, and other upgrade accessories. The site also features communication essentials for businesses, including DSL equipment and telephony products.

www.usbstuff.com

Looking for gadgets to plug into your new Universal Serial Bus-equipped computer? **USB Stuff** has it all, including digital cameras, CD-RW drives, printers, modems, hubs, input devices, cables, and adapters. A sister site at **www.firewirestuff.com** stocks IEEE 1394/FireWire-compatible hardware.

usedcomputer.com

thumbs up index of nonprofit organizations accepting computer donations

Used Computer Mall is a marketplace for used computer equipment. Shoppers can list hardware to sell or look for items to buy using the free classified ads. The site can also help you appraise equipment.

warehouse.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

The five "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware and software, Mac products, networking components, and supplies. The site provides corporate, educational, and government accounts. Business leases are available.

PC DIRECT VENDORS**axissys.com**

The **Axis Systems** Web store offers a best-price guarantee on its preconfigured notebooks, servers, desktops, and workstations.

buyabs.com

thumbs up systems available with Linux preinstalled • smooth navigation • good return policy

Offering exceptional customer support on quality desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS**. Shoppers can custom-configure a wide variety of PCs.

SITE REVIEWS**buy-atlas.com**

thumbs up smooth navigation • good return policy

The **Atlas Micro** site sells a variety of preconfigured desktop PCs. Buyers can select from computers built around Pentium III, Celeron, and AMD processors.

compaq.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

The three arms of **Compaq's** site offer computers for everyone. See Consumer Direct (**athome.compaq.com**) for home and home-office systems, DirectPlus (**www.directplus.compaq.com**) for business PCs and servers, or the Compaq Factory Outlet Superstore (**compaqfactoryoutlet.com**).

cyberpowerinc.com

thumbs up downloadable drivers • smooth navigation • good return policy

From the DVD Dream to the Lightning Professional, the computers at **CyberPower** have names as good as their warranties—three years, with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

dell.com

thumbs up online technical support customized for your particular system • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Carrying the online banner for one of the largest names in direct PC sales, **Dell Computer Corp.** specializes in built-to-order desktop and notebook PCs. The site offers detailed specs, an online tour of each product, and customization options.

www.fosa.com

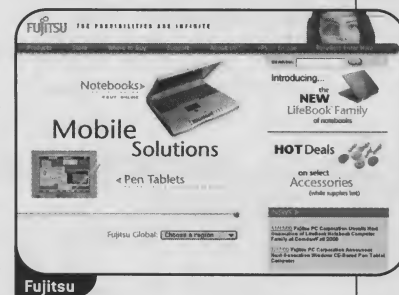
thumbs up good return policy

Fosa's built-to-order notebook computers include a 15-day money-back guarantee with no restocking fee and lifetime technical support.

www.fujitsu-pc.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • good return policy

Purchase **Fujitsu** notebook computers from the source. This Web site offers personal, business, and multimedia notebook computers, with several warranty options on each. Check the Refurbished Outlet for deals.

**gateway.com**

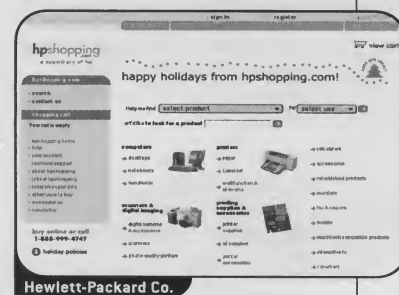
thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

One of the biggest names in online computer sales, **Gateway** offers an octopus-like site that sells custom-built desktops and portables. The company delivers them on time 98 percent of the time, according to e-commerce watchdog BizRate.com.

hpsshopping.com

thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

At this site, **Hewlett-Packard Co.** sells its lines of desktop and notebook computers, handhelds, PDAs, digital cameras, and printers. Business leases are also available.

**ibm.com/shop**

thumbs up Linux available on laptop models • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

ShopIBM sells business and home computers, notebooks, servers, and thin clients. The site also offers the networking equipment to hook them all together, as well as peripherals and software. The build-to-order option allows buyers to customize a new desktop PC.

idot.com

- smooth navigation • easy ordering
- good return policy

From low-cost budget models to powerful monster machines, **iDot.com** offers customized desktop and notebook computers. The iForum area includes tech articles and Q&A lists of interest to PC shoppers.



kaypro.com

- smooth navigation

Kaypro's first computer, released in the early '80s, used a Z-80 processor and ran the long-forgotten CP/M operating system. Today, the company's Web site sells decidedly more modern desktop computers, allowing shoppers to custom-configure Pentium III systems.

microexpress.net

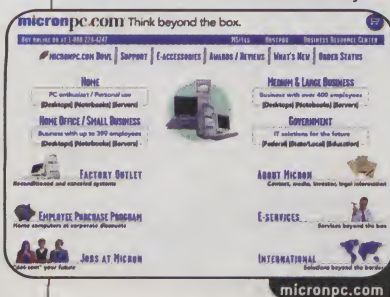
- smooth navigation • good return policy

Micro Express offers custom-configured desktop and notebook computers featuring AMD and Intel processors. Each system includes a 30-day guarantee and a two- or four-year warranty.

micronpc.com

- smooth navigation • good return policy

One of the largest direct PC vendors, **micronpc.com** has a Web sales site broken into clear areas to suit many



types of customers, including home-office users, large businesses, government buyers, and buyers outside the United States.

nutrend.com

- smooth navigation • good return policy

Custom-configure a home or business PC at **NuTrend**. The company offers a wide selection of desktop machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

sagernotebook.com

- leasing options available • smooth navigation • good return policy

Specializing in portable computers, **Sager** offers a variety of notebook-computing options, from budget machines to speedy multimedia units. The one-year warranty includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee.

shopprostar.com

- downloadable drivers • smooth navigation • good return policy

Each computer in **ProStar's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy-repair promise, and free tech support.

store.apple.com

- smooth navigation • easy ordering

Apple's easy-to-use online store allows buyers to custom-configure the company's Power Mac G4, PowerBook, iMac, and iBook computers. A wide array of

SITE REVIEWS

Mac-compatible software and accessories is also available.

tiny.com

- smooth navigation

Leading British PC maker **Tiny Computers** has joined the U.S. market. The company's line of prebuilt PCs ranges from beginner to professional models.

unitedmicro.com

United Micro sells custom-configured desktop and server computers with Intel and AMD processors. The site also offers a large selection of motherboards for PC builders.

vaio.sonymstyle.com

- smooth navigation • good return policy

VAIO Direct sells Sony's line of desktops, notebooks, digital cameras, displays, and storage devices. The Xtras Direct arm offers add-ons for PCs, digital cameras, and other equipment.

www.winbook.com

- smooth navigation • good return policy

Focusing exclusively on notebook computers, **WinBook** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support.



windrover.com

- smooth navigation • good return policy

Windrover offers a 30-day return policy and three-year warranty on all of its prebuilt and custom-configured laptops.

PC RESOURCES

cablemodeminfo.com

- helps you find a cable-ready ISP

Internet addicts considering upgrading to a cable modem or DSL connection—as well as users who have already made the jump—will find a cornucopia of information at **CableModemInfo.com**. You'll find reviews of cable-modem and DSL hardware, plus tips on sharing a modem between PCs.



www.consumersearch.com

- smooth navigation

ConsumerSearch collects abstracts of all sorts of products, including computers, appliances, sports equipment, and automobiles. Each abstract includes a citation (for magazine articles) or a link (for online reviews).

dailydeals.com

- smooth navigation

Before you place an order at your favorite site, open a window to **DailyDeals**. Its coupon pages offer codes that will instantly shave \$5 to \$40 off the bottom line at major online retailers. The First Time area links to substantial discounts for first-time customers.

dcresource.com

- message board • links to digital-camera stores

The Digital Camera Resource Page is

my new pc
doesn't raise
the bar. it
obliterates it.



DELL™ DIMENSION™ 8100 Series

Turbo-Charged PC

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor at 1.3GHz ■ 128MB RDRAM
- 40GB⁵ Ultra ATA-100 Hard Drive (7200 RPM)
- 19" (18.0" vis., .26dp) M991 Monitor
- 32MB DDR NVIDIA™ TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SB Live! Value Digital ■ harman/kardon Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 Ethernet Controller
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty² ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$1699  **E-VALUE CODE**
05947-500116u

ASK US ABOUT NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS.

- Harman Kardon HK-695 Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer, add \$70

Introducing the All-New Dell™ Dimension™ 8100 with an Intel® Pentium® 4 processor. Over-the-top performance for those who can handle it.

The Dell™ Dimension™ 8100 takes you to the next level and then some. We're talking speeds of 1.3GHz maximized by the latest Intel® Pentium® 4 processors. With up to 1GB of memory, you can multi-task without sacrificing performance. Arming you with quite possibly the fastest and most powerful desktop you've ever seen is just one more way Dell helps you get the most out of your PC. No matter how extreme your needs are.



DELL4me.com

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Includes Windows Millennium Edition — the home version of the world's favorite software.

⁵Telephone access (call your phone co. for details) and other surcharges for access may apply. Must register within 30 days of receiving computer and accept DellNet/MSN Terms of Service.

for newer technology, you'd need government clearance.

Dell's latest and greatest technology can be yours with or without the background check.

So you forgot to return a few library books and couldn't get into the FBI Academy. Well, here at Dell™, we don't discriminate. All of our customers are afforded the latest and greatest technology. Like the New Inspiron™ 4000, the ultimate balance of uncompromising performance and mobility. And, of course, we have all of the latest in printers, scanners, and software. So call on us to help build your perfect system or choose from one of the great systems below. Even easier than getting a library card.



Dell™ Inspiron™ 4000 Notebook

DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 3800

Design and Affordability

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 12.1" SVGA TFT Display
- 32MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 5GB⁵ Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 3D⁶ Video
- Internal V.90 56K Capable⁹ FaxModem
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Limited Warranty²
- 1-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$1199 or as low as **\$36** per mo. 45 mos.¹³
No payments for 90 days. E-VALUE Code: 05948-800111

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000

NEW—Thin and Light

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz
- Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 14.1" XGA TFT Display
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 5GB⁵ Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular Removable 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 128 3D⁶ Video
- Internal V.90 56K Capable⁹ FaxModem
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Limited Warranty²
- 1-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$1699 or as low as **\$51** per mo. 45 mos.¹²
No payments for 90 days. E-VALUE Code: 05948-800116

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 8000

NEW—Multimedia Mobile Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 700MHz
- 15" Super XGA+ TFT Display
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10GB⁵ Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- NEW 4X AGP 32MB ATI Rage Mobility™-M4 3D⁶ Video
- Internal V.90 56K Capable⁹ FaxModem
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery ■ harman/kardon Audio
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty²
- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$2349 or as low as **\$70** per mo. 45 mos.¹³
No payments for 90 days. E-VALUE Code: 05948-800124

DELL™ DESKTOPS:

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L Series

Affordable Desktop Solution

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 700MHz
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 10GB⁵ Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 15" (13.8" vis) E551 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics ■ 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64 V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI Telephony Modem for Windows⁸
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty² ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$699 or as low as **\$21** per mo. 45 mos.¹²
No payments for 90 days. E-VALUE Code: 05948-500106

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L Series

Affordable Desktop Solution

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 10GB⁵ Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 15" (13.8" vis) E551 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics ■ 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64 V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI Telephony Modem for Windows⁸
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty² ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$849 or as low as **\$26** per mo. 45 mos.¹²
No payments for 90 days. E-VALUE Code: 05948-500108

DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4100 Series

Advanced Performance, Smart Value

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 933MHz
- 128MB SDRAM at 133MHz
- 20GB⁵ Ultra ATA-100 Hard Drive
- 17" (16.0" vis, .26dp) E770 Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA™ TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 12X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- SB Live! Value Digital
- Altec Lansing® ACS-340™ Speakers with Subwoofer
- V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI Telephony Modem for Windows⁸
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty² ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$1299 or as low as **\$39** per mo. 45 mos.¹²
No payments for 90 days. E-VALUE Code: 05948-500112

DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4100 Series

Advanced Performance, Smart Value

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 1GHz
- 128MB SDRAM at 133MHz
- 40GB⁵ Ultra ATA-100 Hard Drive (7200 RPM)
- 17" (16.0" vis) P780 FD Trinitron® Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA™ TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive ■ SB Live! Value Digital
- 8X/4X/32X Max CD-RW Drive
- Harman Kardon HK-695 Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- U.S. Robotics® V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI Telephony Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty² ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$1799 or as low as **\$54** per mo. 45 mos.¹²
No payments for 90 days. E-VALUE Code: 05948-500117



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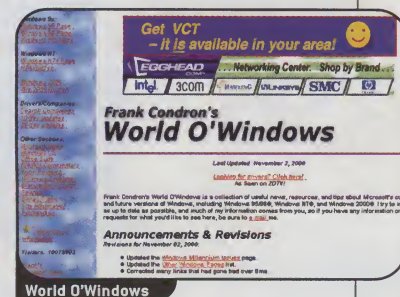
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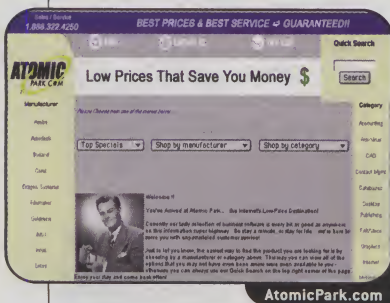
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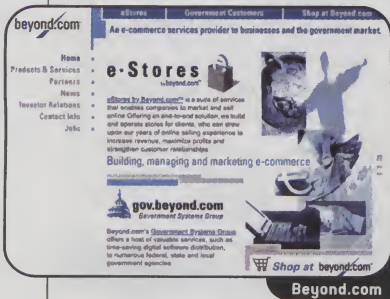
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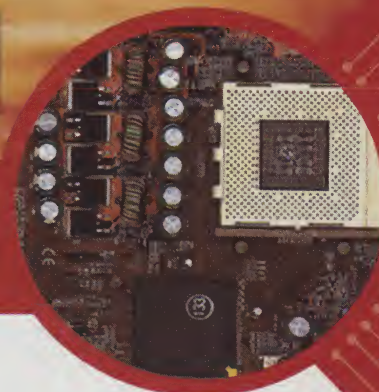


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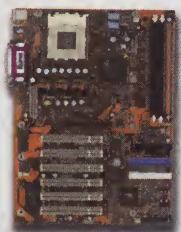
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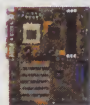
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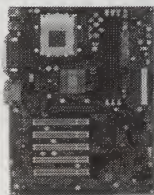
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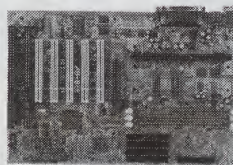
Motherboards

Socket A Motherboard



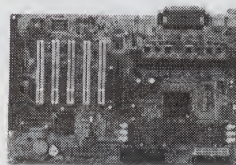
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Slot 1/Socket 370 M/B



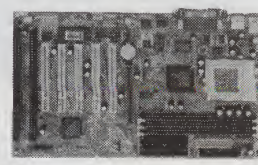
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
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



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ABKT7	FCPGA	6	1	1	3/168	KT133	ATX	\$134
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ABSH6	PIII-1000	6	CNR	1	4/168	815E	ATX	\$137
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ASCUV4X	FCPGA	5	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$110
ASP3BF5P	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$122
ASP3BF	PII-600	6	1	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$122
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intel

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MIT4804KIT	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI RETAIL	135MS	2048K	\$139
YAMAHA www.yamaha.com					
MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW8824EZKIT	8X/8X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	\$167
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YACRW8824S2KIT	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$209
YACRW8824SXZ	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$269
YACRW2100EZKIT	16X/10X/40X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	\$269
YACRW2100S2KIT	16X/10X/40X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$309
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SY48XIDE	48X/200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	\$40
SYCRX140ECHOEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$152
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$162
SYCRX145E/CH	10X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$189
SYCRX160E/CH	12X/8X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$247
SYCRX145S/CH	10X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	\$249

NOTEBOOK DRIVES

TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
TO4313MAT	.4300	.13MS/4200	.1024K	.2.5/8.4MM	..\$107
TO6014MAP	.6000	.13MS/4200	.1024K	.2.5/9.5MM	..\$116
TO1016GAP	.10000	.13MS/4200	.1024K	.2.5/9.5MM	..\$134
TO1214GAP	.12000	.13MS/4200	.1024K	.2.5/9.5MM	..\$167
TO2016GAP	.20000	.13MS/4200	.1024K	.2.5/9.5MM	..\$197
IBM www.ibm.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM206000	.6000	.12MS/4200	.512K	.2.5/12.5MM	..\$119
IBM210000	.10000	.12MS/4200	.512K	.2.5/9.5MM	..\$137
IBM212000	.12000	.12MS/4200	.512K	.2.5/9.5MM	..\$167
IBM220000	.20000	.12MS/4200	.512K	.2.5/9.5MM	..\$197
IBM230000	.30000	.12MS/4200	.512K	.2.5/12.5MM	..\$459

MONITORS

ViewSonic		www.viewsonic.com		
VIE55	15"	28DP	1280 X 1024	..\$152
VIM50	15"	27DP	1280 X 1024	..\$159
VIG653	15"	28DP	1280 X 1024	..\$184
VIGA655	15"	27DP	1280 X 1024	..\$204
VIE70	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	..\$209
VIE771	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	..\$217
VIE773	17"	25DP	1280 X 1024	..\$236
VIGS773	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	..\$257
VIG773	17"	26DP	1280 X 1024	..\$269
VIPS775	17"	25DP	1600 X 1280	..\$309
VIE790	19"	26DP	1600 X 1200	..\$329
VIGA771	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	..\$369
VIG900	19"	26DP	1600 X 1200	..\$399
VIPF790	19"	25DP	1600 X 1280	..\$449
VIPS790	19"	25DP	1600 X 1280	..\$484
VIG810	21"	25DP	1600 X 1280	..\$709
VIP810	21"	25DP	1600 X 1200	..\$779
VIGS815	21"	25DP	1920 X 1440	..\$799
VIP220F	22"	25DP	1600 X 1200	..\$809
VIP817	21"	25DP	2048 X 1536	..\$1439
VIVG151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			..\$959
VIVP150M	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			..\$1029
VIVP151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			..\$1399
VIVG181	LCD MONITOR 18.1" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			..\$2549

RELYSIS					www.relysis.com
RETE555	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	.....	\$122
RETE770	17"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	.....	\$172
RETE786T	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	.....	\$177
RETE786H	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	.....	\$199
RETE988	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	.....	\$269

IDE HARD DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD100EB	10200	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$95
WD150EB	15000	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$103
WD153AA	15300	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$106
WD205AA	20500	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$109
WD200AB	20500	.8.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$113
WD205BA	20500	.9 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$113
WD200BB	20000	.9 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$113
WD153BA	15300	.9 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$114
WD307AA	30700	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$114
WD300BB	30000	.9 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$137
WD450AA	45000	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$142
WD400BB	40000	.9 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$166
IBM www.ibm.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM307015	15000	.8.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$118
IBM307020	20000	.8.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$134
IBM307030	30000	.8.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$139
IBM305030	30000	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$142
IBM305040	40000	.9.5MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$146
IBM307045	45000	.8.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$164
IBM307060	60000	.8.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$277
IBM307075	75000	.8.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$369

Maxtor www.maxtor.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX102-7200	10200	.9.5 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$101
MAX153-7200	15300	.9.5 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$111
MAX204-5400	20400	.9.5 MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$112
MAX307-5400	30700	.9.5 MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$117
MAX204-7200	20400	.9.5 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$127
MAX409-5400	40900	.9 MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$132
MAX307-7200	30700	.9.5 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$137
MAX409-7200	40900	.9.5 MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$172
MAX614-5400	61400	.9 MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$209
MAX819-5400	81900	.9 MS/5400	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$274

Quantum www.quantum.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
QU320500LM	20500	.8.9MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$127
QU330000LM	30000	.8.9MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$147
Fujitsu www.fujitsu.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
FUJ3102AT	10200	.10MS/5400	.512K	.3.5/1" H	..\$99
FUJ3102AH	10200	.9.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$101
FUJ3204AT	20400	.10MS/5400	.512K	.3.5/1" H	..\$114
FUJ3204AH	20400	.9.5MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$116

SCSI HARD DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD91FG	9100	.6.6MS/10000	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$144
WD9150-0050	9100	.5.2MS/10000	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$159
WDE18310-0040	18300	.5.2MS/10000	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$232
WDE18310-0050	18300	.5.2MS/10000	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$269

Seagate www.seagate.com					
MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST39236LW	9200	.5.8MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$207
ST39216N	9200	.5.8MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$217
ST39216W	9200	.5.8MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$217
ST39236LVV	9200	.5.8MS/7200	.4096K	.3.5/1" H	..\$222
ST318416N	18400	.5.8MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$314
ST318416W	18400	.5.8MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$314
ST318436LW	18400	.5.8MS/7200	.2048K	.3.5/1" H	..\$314
ST318436LVV	18400	.5.8MS/7200	.4096K	.3.5/1" H	..\$326
ST318404LW	18400	.5.2MS/10,000	.4096K	.3.5/FH	..\$357
ST318451LW	18400	.5.2MS/10,000	.4096K	.3.5/FH	..\$469
ST336704LW	36700	.5.2MS/10,000	.4096K	.3.5/FH	..\$592
ST336704LVV	36700	.5.2MS/10,000	.16000K	.3.5/FH	..\$604
ST173404LW	73400	.5.6MS/10,000	.4096K	.3.5/FH	..\$1084
ST173404LVV	73400	.5.6MS/10,000	.16000K	.3.5/FH	..\$1114
ST173404LCV	73400	.5.6MS/10,000	.16000K	.3.5/FH	..\$1129

VIDEO CARDS

matrox		www.matrox.com	
MATG45016SDR	G450 16MB, SDR AGP OEM (DUAL)		\$82
MATG45016DDR	G450 16MB, DDR AGP OEM (DUAL)		\$96
MATG45032DDR	G450 32MB, DDR AGP OEM (DUAL)		\$134
ATI		www.atitech.com	
ATIX988A	EXPERT 98 AGP OEM VER 8MB		\$35
ATIX988P	EXPERT 98 PCI OEM VER 8MB		\$56
ATIRF16A	EXPERT RAGE AGP OEM VER 16MB		\$53
ATIX200032A	EXPERT 2000 AGP OEM VER 32MB		\$63
ATIX2KPRO32A	EXPERT 2000PRO AGP OEM VER 32MB		\$81
ATIRF32ATV	RAGE FURY AGP OEM 32MB W/TV		\$92
ATIRFPR32ATV	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 32MB W/TV		\$103
ATIRFMAX6A	RAGE FURY MAX AGP OEM 64MB W/TV		\$107
ATIAIW12832A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 32MB W/TV		\$149
ATIAIW12832P	ALL-IN-WONDER PCI OEM 32MB W/TV		\$167
ATIAIWPR32A	ALL-IN-WONDER PRO AGP OEM 32MB		\$169
ATIRADEON32A	RADEON AGP OEM 32MB DDR		\$154
ATIAIWRAD32A	ALL-IN-WOND RADEON AGP OEM 32MB		\$239
ATIRADEON64A	RADEON AGP OEM 64MB DDR		\$279
STB		www.stb.com	
STB2000-16A	3DFX VOOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB		\$64
STB3000-16A	3DFX VOOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB NOTV		\$67
STB3000-16ATV	3DFX VOOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB TV		\$78
STB3000-16P	3DFX VOOODOO 3 PCI OEM 16MB NOTV		\$99
STB4500-32A	3DFX VOOODOO 4 AGP OEM 32MB		\$124
STB4500-32P	3DFX VOOODOO 4 PCI OEM 32MB		\$127
STB3500-16ATV	3DFX VOOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB TV		\$152
STB5500-64A	3DFX VOOODOO 5 AGP OEM 64MB		\$262
ASUS		www.asus.com	
ASV710016A	GEFORCE-2 MX AGP OEM 16MB		\$93
ASV710032A	GEFORCE-2 MX AGP OEM 32MB		\$127
ASV710032ATV	GEFORCE-2 MX W/TV AGP OEM 32MB		\$137
ASV71002VD	GEFORCE-2 TWINVIEW AGP OEM 32MB		\$152
ASV7700P32A	GEFORCE-2 AGP OEM 32MB DDR		\$194
ASV7700DEL32A	GEFORCE-2 DEL AGP OEM 32MB DDR		\$237
ASV7700P64A	GEFORCE-2 AGP OEM 64MB DDR		\$299
ASV6800P64A	GEFORCE AGP OEM 64MB DDR		\$302
ASV7700DEL64A	GEFORCE-2 DEL AGP OEM 64MB DDR		\$342

SOUND CARDS

CREATIVE		www.creative.com	
CREATIVE, INC.			
CLCT4815	SOUND BLSTR PCI ES4815 OEM		\$2
CLCT4520	SOUND BLSTR AWE 64 ISA OEM		\$2
CLCT4750	SOUND BLSTR PCI 128 OEM		\$3
CLCT4830	SOUND BLSTR LIVE VALUE PCI OEM		\$4
CLSBLX65.1R	SOUND BLSTR LIVE X-GAMER RETAIL		\$8
CLSBLMP3+5.1R	SOUND BLSTR LIVE MP3+ RETAIL		\$8
CLSBLPLAT5.1R	SOUND BLSTR LIVE PLATINUM RET		\$17

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Businesses sign up for the service through Cisco's ISP



the road. That's because **Cisco Systems** has launched an initiative called Internet Mobile Office (www.cisco.com/warp/public/779/smbiz/cmo) that provides secure, wired, and wireless high-speed network access from public facilities

partners, which include **MobileStar**, **Wayport**, and **Global Digital Media**. **Concourse Communications Group** works with these service providers to deploy Cisco's products in public venues, which Cisco refers to as Hot Spots.

At press time, 300 Hot Spots could be found nationwide, including New York's JFK International and LaGuardia airports, and New Jersey's Newark International. Cisco expects to have thousands of venues operating by the time you read this. Travelers can locate Hot Spots by going to www.cisco.com/

[warp/public/779/smbiz/cmo](http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/779/smbiz/cmo) and selecting the state from the drop-down list.

Cisco plans to augment its service through alliances with a number of application ser-

vice providers (ASPs), the first of which is **Mimeo.com**, an online document-printing service. Mimeo.com enables users to send electronic data in encrypted, secure, high-speed form directly from any PC application to its centralized production center in Memphis.

Through its alliance with Cisco, the company will permit traveling professionals to access fast, convenient, secure wireless document production from public-access spaces, then have their documents printed, bound, and delivered. Cisco plans to add other ASPs whose offerings make business travel a bit easier. —Nancy A. Lang

Will Work for Stock

Cash-hungry startups may find the sustenance they need in a new program launched by **Advise4Stock** (www.advise4stock.com). The company provides an alternative to venture capital (VC) and angel financing by connecting startups with advisors willing to work for equity.

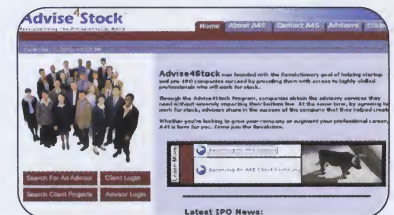
Advise4Stock advisors often accept only stock in exchange for their time. "But in some cases, they may work for a combination of equity and cash," says Brian Schniderman, chief executive.

The company's site provides self-help tools, templates, technologies, and strategies for offering equity. Clients get a virtual office, complete with a password and username that allow access to a Web site containing a cadre of tools. A document room at the site contains sample contracts and information on warrants, grants, and nondisclosures.

Advise4Stock offers two levels of service. For a \$1,500 enrollment fee, its silver plan provides full access to the site and direct contact with advisors.

The \$3,000 gold plan offers clients more handholding. If a client uses any number of advisors in any given month, it pays a flat \$25 maintenance fee. The number of advisors it can use each month is unlimited. The company is also exploring ways of providing its services for equity, taking 10 percent from the client. "If the advisor gets 10 shares an hour, for instance, we'll take one share an hour."

At press time, Advise4Stock had not yet launched officially, but had 10 clients and 150 advisory



sors. The company is building an advisor base through direct mailings, and Schniderman expects to sign 1,000 by the end of January.

Advise4Stock is developing a client base through referrals it receives from VCs. Schniderman expected 10 VC alliances by the launch date and anticipates signing clients at a rate of 200 to 400 per month. —N.A.L.

E-Sales Soar

Research firm eMarketer projects B2C e-commerce sales will skyrocket from \$19.4 billion in 1999 to \$125.6 billion by 2004, translating to an annual growth rate of 47 percent. At press time, the company anticipated e-tail revenue to total \$37 billion for 2000.



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- 48X Max IDE CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service³; 7x24 Phone Tech Support

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$37/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

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- MS® Windows® 2000 Server, add \$799

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- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service³; 7x24 Phone Tech Support

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- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers
- 40X Max SCSI CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service³; 7x24 Phone Tech Support

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$48/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

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— PC Magazine, July 2000



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Get Your IM to Go

BY DONNA TAPPELLINI

New and improved mobile capabilities make instant messaging a valuable business tool.

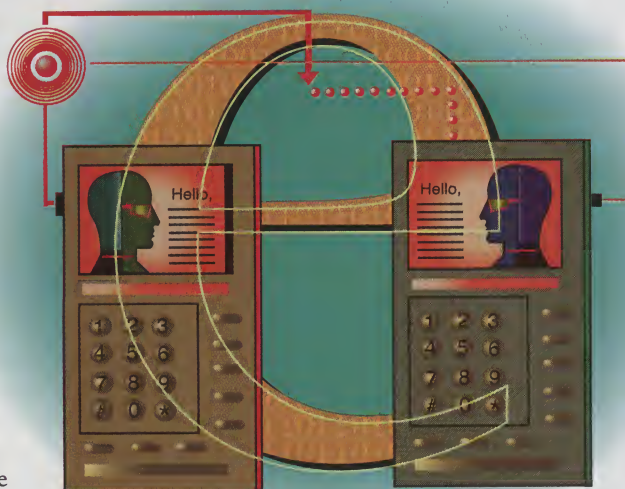
IT STARTED AS A FUN WAY TO CHAT UP YOUR PALS. BUT AS DEVELOPERS strive to make instant messaging more attractive to business users, the technology has become increasingly robust, with features geared toward the mobile corporate set.

In search of useful business features, we looked at two popular instant-messaging programs: America Online's AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) and Microsoft Corp.'s MSN Messenger Service. We also found some complementary services aimed at the office IMer.

AOL INSTANT MESSENGER

In its latest attempt to make AIM more useful for on-the-go business users, AOL recently launched a version that runs on Web-enabled Sprint PCS Phones and provides much of the functionality of PC-based AIM. You can see which of your contacts are logged on—be it by phone or PC—and tap out an instant message using your phone's keypad. The program uses T9 Text Input, which makes educated guesses about the words you want to enter and makes typing on a numeric keypad easier. Canned phrases such as "Where are you?" also help speed communication. And privacy preferences let you choose who can send you messages. Phone-based AIM comes free with Sprint PCS Phones, and service minutes can apply to voice or text messages.

You may be asking yourself why you wouldn't just make a traditional voice call rather than go through the trouble of typing on a phone keypad. Perhaps you're in a meeting and you want to give a subordinate



an assignment, but you don't want to interrupt the proceedings. Or you need to get through to a co-worker while you're on the road, but the line is busy.

File sharing, though not designed for mobile use, is another useful business feature. To pick up a file from another user, highlight that individual's name and select Buddy from the People menu. Then select Get File. AOL points you to the file folders your contact designated as shared for fellow IMers.

To send a file, browse your hard drive, specify the directory path to the file, and type in a description of what you're sending. The recipient can then decide whether to accept your download.

MSN MESSENGER SERVICE

Microsoft is also focusing on mobile users with its MSN Messenger Service. If you want contacts to send messages to your pager, cell phone, or other mobile device, set up a profile and specify the type of device (or devices) you have, along with phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Your contacts will then have access to this information.

File-sending capabilities are also built into MSN Messenger. The program automatically sets up a folder for receiving files under My Documents. To send a file, select Send File from the File menu, highlight the file you want, and click Open. Once your recipient gets the file, you can continue your discussion.

ECRIO

If typing isn't your forte, or your fingers are permanently cramped from the tiny keypads on WAP phones and handhelds, you may soon be able to take advantage of ecrio's Rich Instant Messaging Platform (www.ecrio.com). The company is offering the software to portals and ISPs, but at press time, wouldn't say which ones. The program lets you send handwritten messages and drawings, as well as files and images, to and from wireless and desktop devices. It works on PDAs using Palm, Windows CE, and Psion's EPOC operating systems, as well as on WAP phones. You can tell when contacts are online and what type of devices they're using (PDA, phone, or desktop), information that helps ecrio deliver the message in a format optimized for the recipient's device.

PRESENCEWORKS

Another interesting offering comes from PresenceWorks (www.presenceworks.com). Its technology lets you see who's online and ready to conduct business across four of the largest IM services—AIM, MSN Messenger Service, ICQ, and Yahoo Messenger. Companies can build this information into their Web sites so visitors can conduct business from your site in real time. A job-search Web site, for instance, uses PresenceWorks to connect potential freelancers with employers instantly. If you're in search of a marketing analyst, choose that category from a drop-down list to obtain names of analysts currently online waiting to be contacted.

IM programs may still use chatty buzzwords and smiley-faced emoticons, but creative business users can get serious with these handy programs. ▼

here's looking at you

by
alice hill

for years, videoconferencing has been out of reach for many small businesses. In-house systems to connect two or more satellite offices fell in the five- and six-figure range, and conferencing centers charged about \$1,000 a minute to rent their state-of-the-art equipment for company meetings.

How things have changed! Today, even small companies can enjoy the benefits of desktop videoconferencing, and the costs are surprisingly low. For \$150 or less a head, we found some excellent desktop solutions that may not rival the big conferencing rigs in large-crowd handling or video quality, but will reliably beam your face and voice across the Net, and double as basic digital cameras or camcorders, to boot.

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

Videoconferencing is what you might call a Noah's Ark technology: To get it to work, you have to do it in pairs. Getting two of any product out the door can be a hard sell, so for years videoconferencing products sat on store shelves. It was tough enough setting up your own system, but buying and configuring conferencing equipment for your satellite office on the West Coast was a logistical nightmare.

Luckily, three things happened to change what was becoming an impossible situation. First, easy Web access meant simple and widespread connectivity. Next, Microsoft

personal videoconferencing comes of age

Corp. developed NetMeeting, a relatively simple conferencing application that comes with Windows 2000 or can be downloaded free for other Windows platforms. And last, affordable Webcams hit the market and made adding a camera to your PC as simple as adding a set of speakers or a microphone.

Setup is so easy that installation takes less than 30 minutes—in most cases, closer to 15. The process is as close to plug and play as you can get. Just attach the camera holder to the top of the monitor (a bit tricky if you're using a flat panel, unless the camera has a stick-on base), snap the camera into the holder, and plug the camera's cable into an available USB slot. Next, run the setup program, install the various photo-editing goodies, and if you don't already have it with your Windows 2000 setup, download and install the latest version of NetMeeting.

To use NetMeeting, you'll need to download and sign up with MSN Messenger Service and set up a free Passport or Hotmail account (a sneaky way to get more Microsoft products onto users' desktops), and then list yourself, a conference room, or each user in your department

in the NetMeeting directory.

Don't expect TV-quality conferencing, though. Even the five-figure systems offer video quality that falls somewhere between a slide show and space-shuttle footage. Lighting is also a little dimmer than you'd expect, but even at 10 to 15 frames per second (fps), you can do what conferencing always promised: connect visually with the person on the other end of the phone line.

The three cameras profiled here do a great job of keeping you in touch and in motion. But they also take the camera a step further, either by offering enhanced editing tools and outstanding bundles to get images onto your Web site or into your e-mail, or by breaking free of the desktop and doubling as basic digital cameras you can take anywhere. They may not be the best digital still cameras on the market, but if conferencing is your thing, having the extra option is a nice bonus.

CREATIVE LABS VIDEO BLASTER WEBCAM GO PLUS

Creative Labs started the trend of untethering Webcams so they could pull double duty as digital cameras, and its latest, the Video Blaster WebCam Go Plus, is no exception. Unfortunately, it's neither the best digital camera nor the best value as a conferencing solution.

With 8MB of memory inside, the

WebCam Go Plus can store an impressive 200 24-bit still images at 640x480, or 400 images at 320x240. It even lets you record and attach your own comments to each shot when you use the built-in digital voice-annotation mode. The bundle sells for \$129.99 direct from Creative Labs.

Everything you need to conference is included (even a microphone), and we were impressed by the Video Blaster WebCam Monitor software that essentially lets you turn your PC into a surveillance device. The software acts as a motion detector, activating the camera whenever it senses activity nearby. It even sends you e-mail to let you

INTEL POCKET PC CAMERA

Intel Corp. has been pushing personal videoconferencing since the mid-'90s, when you needed ISDN to even think about a desktop solution. Today, the company has a suite of Webcams that not only let you make what Intel calls "video calls," they let you record and edit movies, send video e-mail, and take stills and video clips from the camera and add them to your Web site.

The \$149 Pocket PC Camera is the most versatile product in Intel's Webcam line because it doubles as a digital camera. It won't give you the breadth of features or even the image quality of a rival digital cam-

videoconferencing/calling, the camera will do 30 fps, but don't expect to get that kind of performance across the Net or through your phone line; for Webcams, 10 to 15 fps is more the norm.

The Pocket PC Camera has a nice autofocus range and can handle images as close as 5 centimeters, but be sure to avoid low lighting conditions because, like most Webcams, the camera has no flash.

Among the software titles bundled with the camera are MGI PhotoSuite III; Intel's Movie Builder, Email Postcard, Picture Manager, Auto Snapshot, and Home Page Builder; and Reality Fusion's PC Camera games.



Bottom Line Intel has done its homework in assembling an affordable desktop-camera solution. The ability to create and send video clips with Intel's postcard e-mail utility, and even play games with the camera, give the product more range than a traditional camera bundle. Combined with the added still-camera functionality, the Intel Pocket PC Camera is our pick for a great home-office tool.

XIRLINK IBM PC CAMERA PRO MAX

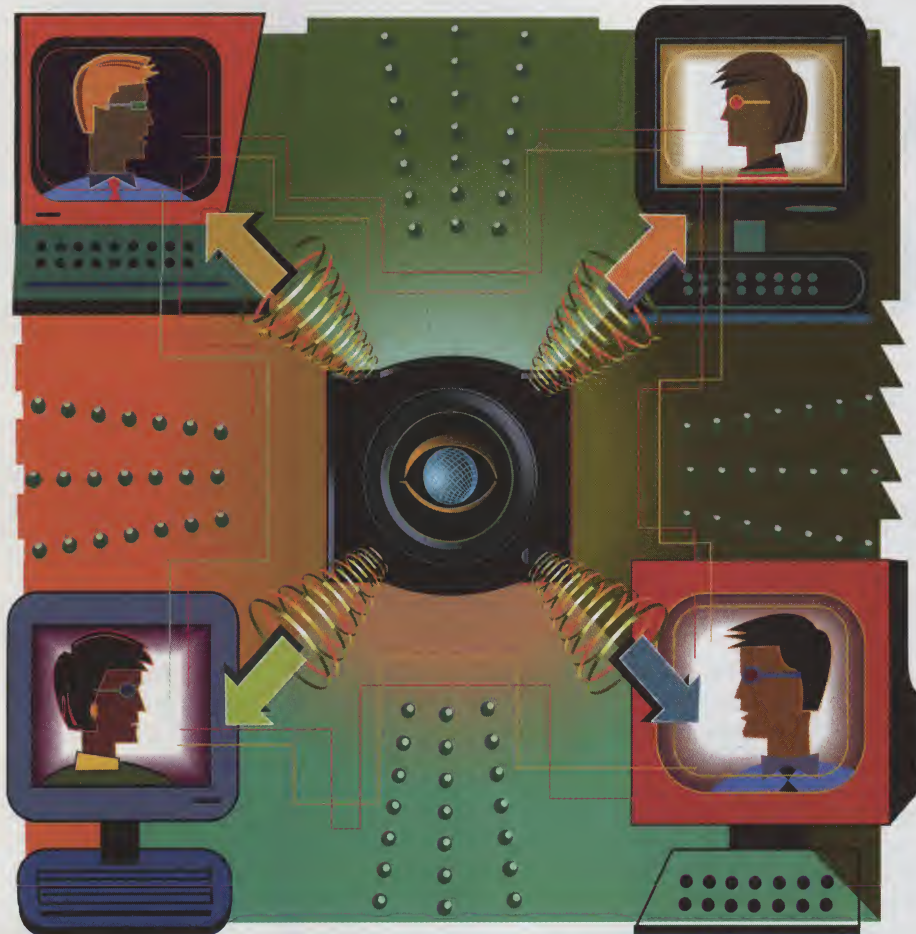
The name may be a mouthful, but the Xirlink IBM PC Camera Pro Max is one of the best Webcams on the market. Image quality comes surprisingly close to that of a stand-alone digital camera, thanks to the ability to set the Webcam for natural and backlit conditions. The camera has no flash, and you can't use it away from your PC, but if conferencing is your primary goal, the Xirlink may be the best deal on the market. This camera sells for a little under \$100.

The Xirlink comes with mounting brackets for your monitor, a clip for your laptop, a 6-foot USB cable, and everything you need to start videoconferencing or video editing, including Microsoft NetMeeting, ArcSoft PhotoStudio, Polaroid PhotoMax, and IBM's own PerfectPhoto PC camera software. The NTSC port on the back of the camera is a nice touch, letting you connect a camcorder and capture any video images you have on tape straight into your PC.

One note to anyone with a system using an AMD processor faster than 350MHz, or a Via Technologies chipset: You'll need to download a patch to get the camera to run on your system. If you're a Mac user, you're out of luck.



Bottom Line You can take it with you if you stay close to a desktop or laptop. With its low price and great image quality, the Xirlink IBM PC Camera Pro Max will have you glued to your seat. ▼



know it detected something.

Bundled software includes ArcSoft PhotoImpression 2000 and VideoImpression, PixAround.com's PixScreen, and WebCam Monitor.



Bottom Line Is it a Webcam or a digital camera? No one knows for sure, but with no flash, the many features on the digital-camera side are hampered. On the video side, the motion-detector feature is great if you're into spying. Otherwise, you can find more affordable solutions.

era, but the added bonus of breaking free and snapping something other than your face from time to time makes this camera well worth the price.

The camera has a maximum still-shot resolution of 640x480 at 24 bits (16.8 million colors). It connects easily to your PC via a USB port, and untethered, its 8MB of RAM will store up to 2 minutes of video or 128 640x480 images. But RAM is only a factor when you're storing images in the camera; it has no effect on frames per second. For

MAXIMIZE UPTIME FOR MINIMAL COST

You can't afford *not* to implement these inexpensive solutions for minimizing downtime.

by Steve Rigney

The sad truth about computers is that it's not a matter of "if" a piece of equipment will break down, it's a matter of "when." Every PC has at least two moving parts (a hard drive and a cooling fan), and these parts will eventually stop spinning. Most companies accept that they'll experience some downtime. But once your business goes online, you need 24/7 availability. That's when you need to consider investing in products and procedures that ensure higher resiliency and fault tolerance. We'll show you some steps you can take to prevent a server or PC crash, as well as some components you can use to keep your business running in the event of a crash.

PROACTIVE PROCEDURES

One of the chief causes of hardware crashes is a power strike. Lightning and power surges can wreak havoc with all kinds of electronics, and because servers are usually always on, they're among the first to get zapped. Fortunately, most businesses connect uninterruptible power supplies (UPSs) to their servers. Although these battery

backups aren't intended to keep a server running for a long period of time, they buy you enough time to close all the open applications and shut the server down gracefully in the event of a power failure. UPSs from American Power Conversion, for example, include software that alerts the server in the event of a power failure and automatically shuts it down. This is important, because if a server fails while the hard drive is writing data, the disk can be damaged and data lost forever. A good UPS should also offer built-in surge protection, because power surges can cause more problems than outages.

Lightning strikes have been responsible for smoking a fair amount of hardware, and not just through the AC power cable. The majority of damage inflicted by lightning strikes travels through phone lines. Indeed, nine out of 10 damaged PCs and components are crippled by power running through the modem and not the power connector. That's why it's important to install surge protectors for your phone lines. You can also pay the phone company a few extra dollars each month to attach a lightning

protector to each of your data phone lines.

You can have the most fault-tolerant system in the world, but if you don't back up your data to removable media, you risk catastrophe. Just copying data to a tape every night is not enough. To restore your data and keep a long-term copy of it, you need to use a proper tape-rotation scheme. If you use only a single tape and overwrite it each night, you could lose older data. And if that tape's bad, you may not know it until it's too late. We recommend a tape for each day your business is open, another for each month, and another for the entire year. This will allow you to recover old data you deleted by accident, and if a single tape goes bad, you can always restore from the previous day. It's not great to lose a day's worth of data, but it's better than losing everything.

One of the simplest and least expensive ways to prevent crashes is a good cleaning. A \$5 can of compressed air and some cotton swabs can be as useful as a mirrored server. We recommend you take your server down at least once a month and blow it out with a can of compressed air. This will prevent the fan from becoming clogged with dust and the components from overheating. It's also a good idea to shut the server down just to keep the power switch in working condition. Power switches have been known to fail over the years, and it's not pretty when you turn off the server and find you can't turn it back on.

FAULT-TOLERANT COMPONENTS

Now that you've taken steps to ensure that your server doesn't crash, and that you can recover data if it does, consider some components that help you get through a server crash without losing data or disrupting workers.

A Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) is one of the best and least expensive ways to add a strong level of fault tolerance to your server. RAID relies on a series of configurations, called levels, to determine how drives connect together and how your data is protected. Although there are only six RAID levels everyone agrees on (0 through 5), many vendors come up with their own levels, such as 7, 10, and 35. Eventually, these new RAID levels may become mainstream, but today most network administrators stick with the most common levels—0, 1, 3, and 5.

RAID level 0 is a misnomer because it doesn't provide any redundancy. It just stripes, or spreads out, blocks of each file across all the drives in your RAID system.

If you use NetWare, Windows 2000, or Windows NT, you're already familiar with RAID level 0. Striping, also known as spanning, is useful if you want to add disk capacity to your server without adding a new volume name. It's also fast. But if one drive fails in the RAID array, the entire system goes down. RAID level 0 does improve performance, but it doesn't deliver fault tolerance, so you either have to augment it with a good backup or choose another level of RAID.

RAID level 1 is probably the most redundant level of RAID available. It uses disk mirroring to copy your data to a second drive. If one drive fails, the second takes over, and the end user never knows the difference. But if corrupt data is written to one drive, it's also copied to the mirrored drive. The disadvantages of RAID level 1 are mostly financial. Most network administrators can't afford to mirror all their disk space, especially if it reaches into hundreds of gigabytes. Standard disk mirroring requires two times the number of drives, and three-way mirroring requires three times the number of drives. Even with the cost of hard drives dropping, mirroring is only feasible for the most important data, and as mentioned earlier, even it can be foiled.

RAID level 3 introduces a concept known as parity, or error-correcting information, to provide redundancy for your disk subsystem. Level 3 dedicates a single drive in the array to act as the parity drive. Information is striped across the remaining drives, usually a byte at a time. The parity drive keeps track of all the information on the striped drives and can re-create that information if a drive fails. If the parity drive itself fails, you should replace it quickly, because you just lost your redundancy. Level 3 is somewhat expensive because it requires dedicating an entire drive to parity. Its fast read data-transfer rate suits it for applications that send and receive large chunks of data, such as graphics and multimedia programs.

RAID level 5 doesn't use a single drive

for parity, but instead stripes the parity information across all the drives in the array. It's the most redundant of the striping levels, because if a single drive fails, all the parity information on the other drives can work together to rebuild it. Level 5 is also the most versatile RAID level, offering the highest read data rate. Recommended applications include sending e-mail, as well as word processor, spreadsheet, and database information, across the LAN. RAID level 5 is also fairly inexpensive because you don't have to dedicate an entire drive to parity information. But you do need at least

adapters in your server. We recommend connecting these cables to two separate boxes. A redundant hub/switch is a lot more expensive than a network adapter, but it ensures that if one fails, your users will still be able to connect to the server. Even if you decide not to hook it up, you should always keep a spare hub/switch handy in the event of a failure.

Connections to the Internet and WAN have become increasingly important. A company that sells widgets on the Internet, for instance, can't make money if its Internet connection goes down. And the branch office is in trouble if it can't connect to the main

office to access important information. This means you should invest in redundant connections to the Internet and WAN.

It's usually too expensive to have two high-speed Internet connections, so we recommend a slower second one to provide connectivity in case the primary link goes down. An ISDN or DSL connection is cheap enough and probably fast enough to handle your most important traffic until your primary connection is restored. You should also get the fail-over link from a different carrier so you're safe if your primary ISP goes down.

The best, albeit most expensive, fault-tolerance solution is a mirrored or clustered server. In the past, this

required a high-speed fiber-optic connection, expensive software, and two identical high-end servers. Needless to say, server mirroring was not very attractive to small businesses. However, that's changing to some extent. Now the software that comes with your NOS provides for fault-tolerant servers, and the hardware no longer has to be identical.

It's almost impossible to have a completely fault-tolerant system, because so many components are involved. As soon as you set up a mirrored server, someone could take it down by tripping over the cable. You must respect the threat by taking care of your hardware, protecting your data with backups, and keeping spare parts on hand. ▼



three drives to build a level 5 array.

It doesn't matter if your server is running if the network clients can't access it. To ensure constant connectivity to the server, you should invest in redundant network adapters and redundant links for your servers. Every network operating system (NOS) lets you install two network adapters in your server. This not only helps if one of the adapters fails, but it also increases performance because both adapters can send and receive information at one time. At less than \$100 for a good 10/100Mbps Ethernet adapter, it's an inexpensive way to add fault tolerance.

Obviously, you'll need two cable runs from the hub or switch if you install two

**LINUX FOR
BUSINESS**

Which GUI To Go With?

BY LOU GRINZO

Check out the key differences between two outstanding graphical user interfaces for Linux.

NEWCOMERS TO LINUX ARE OFTEN BOGGLED BY THE NUMBER OF components they can, and often must, choose from in setting up their systems. Nowhere is this situation better demonstrated than in the area of graphical user interfaces (GUIs), where you face an astounding number of options, even by Linux standards. Luckily, if you're moving to Linux, you won't have to look beyond the "big two"—KDE (www.kde.org) and GNOME (www.gnome.org)—to find an excellent fit for your work style and preferences.

IT'S THE LAYERS

The GUI on a typical Linux system begins with software known generically as X11. This is usually XFree86, a free program that lets applications display information in graphical mode. You can run it by itself, but bare-bones X11 is extremely primitive. Instead, you should run a window manager on top of X11 that offers a slicker appearance with more convenience features, such as taskbars or a "theme-able" look and feel. Popular window managers include Enlightenment, AfterStep, and sawfish, but you can choose from about 20 more at freshmeat.net (www.freshmeat.net) and LinuxApps (www.linuxapps.com).

The top rung of the GUI ladder is a desktop environment that includes KDE and GNOME. Like the move from bare X11 to X11 plus a window manager, adding a desktop environment uses more system resources but delivers more features. KDE and GNOME are close to a Windows 9x/2000 environment in overall operation and functionality, and include or work with an impressive number of free utilities and applications, from minor games to full-blown office suites. One exception is configurability, an area where Linux environments beat Windows hands down. (See www.themes.org for hundreds of themes for



various Linux environments.) You can get either the source code or prebuilt programs for the latest releases of KDE or GNOME for free, but many people simply let their Linux distribution load and set up one or both of these desktop environments at installation time. All the major Linux distributions include excellent support for both KDE and GNOME, and will be revised to include the newest versions shortly.

IT'S THE VERSIONS, TOO

Although KDE 2.0 was released in late October, even the previous version, KDE 1.1.2, was widely considered a more polished and complete package than GNOME 1.2, the version that was current at the time. KDE 2.0, a major upgrade to 1.1.2, is

comparable to moving from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95, and it widened the lead over GNOME 1.2 considerably.

The most notable single change in KDE is Konqueror, its new file manager. (KDE 1.x included a functional but primitive file manager called kfm.) The far more capable Konqueror serves as a file manager, Web browser, and file viewer. Version 2.0 is improved in dozens of other ways as well, from obvious things, such as a more distinct visual style that makes excellent use of 16- and 32-bit display modes, to far deeper architectural changes that should entice programmers to create more applications for it or port them from Windows. (Most basic KDE and GNOME programs, however, will run fine under each other's environment as long as all the required system libraries are present.)

GNOME 1.4 is also new, and like KDE, the biggest news is its file manager. The interesting twist is that GNOME 1.4's file manager, Nautilus, was developed outside the GNOME team by a company called Eazel (www.eazel.com). Like Konqueror, Nautilus serves as a file manager, Web browser, and file viewer, which is why Eazel prefers to call it an "extensible shell" rather than a file manager. GNOME 1.4 and Nautilus, both free, should be released by the time you read this.

The most intriguing aspect of Eazel's plan is its offering of subscription services. These will update your system components automatically in much the same way the Windows Update feature does. You can also search the Net for new programs. Eazel will also offer an online "vault" service, essentially its own Internet-based storage space similar to i-drive.com (www.idrive.com), Xdrive (www.xdrive.com), and others. (CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company, is an investor in both i-drive.com and Xdrive.)

WHICH SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Both KDE and GNOME are capable and free desktop environments, and they're both sprouting new features faster than you can say "Toto, we're not running Windows anymore." But for anyone moving to Linux, whether from Windows or the Mac OS, KDE has a significant edge in usability and overall functionality, making it the best available on-ramp to a Linux GUI. Best of all, if you decide you don't like it, you're free to switch to GNOME or a bare window manager. ▼

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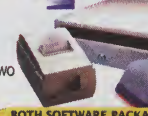
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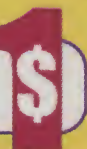
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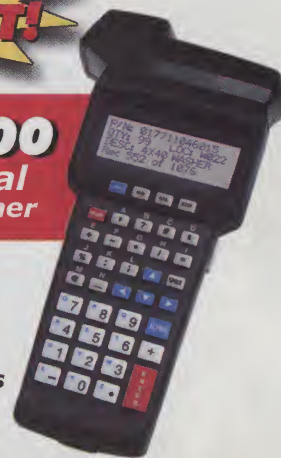
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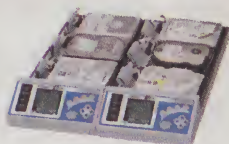
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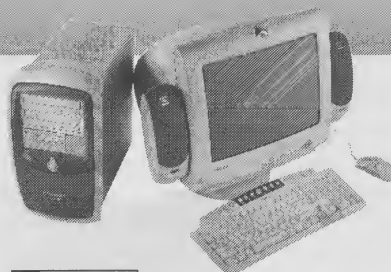
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The Hard Edge

BY ALICE HILL
AND BILL O'BRIEN

*Snaring Hardware From Failed Dot-Coms; Transmeta Soars;
and Inside Netscape 6.0*

ALICE & BILL

AH, FEBRUARY! THE MONTH OF HEARTS AND FLOWERS, SONGS AND dreamy looks, long sighs and infatuations. It's a month of such excellent moods, one needs to wonder why they made it the shortest month of the year. It must have been devised by a computer manufacturer. We all know any computer we buy becomes obsolete 10 minutes before the freight company drop-kicks it onto our doorsteps. So it is with February, gone just as things are getting started.

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS DEPT.

One way to guard against the sting and heartache of hardware obsolescence is to pay as little as possible for a PC. This isn't the same as buying a cut-rate clunker and then regretting every minute of it as you upgrade the RAM, swap out the graphics card, and basically buy your way into the now incredibly obsolete PC you tried to avoid buying in the first place. The secret, according to Alice, may be in all those failed dot-coms.

It's no secret the dot-com industry has gone belly-up in a show of corporate fireworks never before seen in modern business. But what isn't being reported is that when these companies crash and burn, their hardware—generally top-shelf stuff financed by clueless VCs—is put up for auction and sold at fire-sale prices.

Case in point: When product-buying advisor Productopia went under in November, it scheduled a two-day auction on Dovebid.com, a site that specializes in business liquidations and physical auctions. The hardware list included everything from servers to office chairs, and the price was a buyer's delight.

Like many overfinanced dot-coms, Productopia had a fine assortment, and Alice snared a Pentium II desktop with tons of features, including a very nice 18-inch monitor, for \$560. The company was located just down the street—no shipping costs—and Alice was able to augment her home office for less than the cost of a Celeron-based system with no memory or monitor.

POINTING DEVICES

It's not that Bill minded the flock of cherubs that had begun to hang out on the veranda of the Basement of Doom and Pepsi-Cola. All in all they were a nice lot, only took target practice at the hay bales, and brought enough Pepsi to share. Besides, with St. Valentine's Day on the way, they needed a base of operations so they could keep their Internet-enabled cell phones charged, and this was as good a place as any. The only irking thing was the entertainment.

Cherub-tossing was no big deal. Likewise, cherub-in-the-middle was a hoot. Pin-the-tail-on-the-cherub may have been a little borderline, and Bill politely excused himself from Johnny-on-the-cherub even though he was

the most requested player. No, the games weren't a big deal. It was the music. Okay, so the little buggers had co-opted Bill's brand-new 400-watt Klipsch speaker system. (Possibly because they'd heard him say it produced the sweetest sound this side of heaven.) Loud music can be nice. Except the only song they played, over and over again, was "All You Need Is Love." It wasn't even the lyrics that drove Bill to attempt an Alice-inspired blowtorch CD sculpture. It was that constant "dah-da-da-dah" musical refrain that did him in.

Even though Bill was sure any court would clear him (and just how much jail time could you really get for justifiable cherubicide anyway?), he pushed hard for a compromise and finally won. The settlement allowed every fifth cut to be a song of his choosing, and Bill made it easy by selecting only two songs—"Spirit in the Sky" and "Another Brick in the Wall." (He considered "Alice's Restaurant," but couldn't decide between the original version and the remake 23 years later.)

Bill noticed one small side effect. The cherubs had a natural affinity for Norman Greenbaum's opus, but they went absolutely wild over Pink Floyd. And as cherubs went off on their appointed rounds, Bill noticed the pile of paving bricks he kept by the side of the guyrage growing smaller. So Bill thought it prudent to mention that this year, when you stand facing your heart's love and feel that cherub hovering behind your back, you may want to put aside those thoughts of hearts and flowers and think more along the lines of Ignatz Mouse and Crazy Kat. (This may be the appropriate attitude to take toward computer manufacturers, as well. No matter how flowery they might make their systems sound, a lot of them just byte.)

QUICK TAKES FROM THE EDGE

■ **Netscape 6.0 takes the lead (for now).** To be honest, Alice rejoiced when the Netscape-vs.-Microsoft browser wars cooled. It's not that she was pro-Microsoft, or even pro-Netscape, but all the battling, downloading, and rushed betas made her hard drive sick with code not ready for prime time. Enough was enough.

But just when she thought it was safe to surf again, Netscape unveiled 6.0. Aside



ILLUSTRATION BY MATT FOSTER

ALICE & BILL 

from the radical new look called "themes" (stay tuned for an Alice and Bill Theme) that smartly took a page from Windows, and the joy people shared in customizing their desktops with wallpaper and crazy screensavers, Netscape 6.0 does some impressively groundbreaking things.

One, it lets you get unprecedented access to AOL mail the same way you check any other POP3 account. It saves search results as bookmarks and loads a dynamic panel on the left-hand side of the screen that essentially becomes a browser within a browser. View your stock quotes, CNET and ZDNet headlines, and tons of content from other providers without loading the whole page. Nice touch, Netscape. Get ready for a whole new browser war based less on how a Web site is rendered and more on how it's pulled into the desktop.

■ Transmeta had stellar IPO.

Tech stocks go up and down, but Alice and Bill were proud to see Transmeta, the CPU IBM and Compaq dumped just seconds before its IPO, have a stellar first few days regardless. Even if the stock is in the toilet by the time you read this, the fact remains: Somewhere, the love of a good chip still holds true even on Wall Street, and Alice and Bill applaud the technical breath of fresh air.

■ **And they called it Audrey.** Alice is eagerly awaiting her first hands-on look at the latest home-PC trend: the Internet appliance. "Old news," you scoff? Not so. Now Internet appliances are smartly targeted not to the hapless beginner, but the busy household with multiple e-mail addresses and Palm devices, and no way of coordinating all that data on Post-Its and paper. Alice is hoping 3Com's new Audrey will show once and for all that a Web PC in the kitchen—if done right—is not for recipes, but for keeping a busy and wired family in touch. Stay tuned.

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT?

The way things have started off this year, it's probably best if you reacquaint yourself with Alice and Bill's Theory of Primal Computing. Simply stated: Nothing a company develops is necessarily done in your interest. You may happen to derive some benefit from it, but the primary purpose of developing (and selling) things is so that you'll buy them, the company will make money, and it will stay in business to make more stuff.

Take Intel, for example. Specifically, take the Pentium 4. Or don't. Your humble pair of processing pundits will tell you quite straightforwardly that the Pentium 4 has all the potential of the Pentium Pro within the retail consumer market. Still, Intel (or, rather, computer sellers—Intel would never try to influence them) has been pushing Pentium 4 systems like the world was on fire and they were fire extinguishers.

Sure, the P4 is a powerful CPU. The problem is, it's not powerful for anything you may have on your desktop right now. It's Intel's way of moving away from the

The Pentium 4 is a powerful CPU, but it's more power than you need for anything you may have on your desktop right now.

x86 compatibility it's supported for the past 18 years in an attempt to give itself an honest advantage over AMD's product line. But Intel can't do it until the software catches up to the CPU.

So you should blame the software guys, right? Nah. They've had x86 compatibility promises for those same 18 years. They have a lot of time and effort invested in it. It's not their fault Intel has moved the rug—while they were standing on it. That's not to say the P4 appeared in a vacuum. It didn't. But the software makers have no use for it right now, while Intel does.

Also keep in mind that the Pentium II and both versions of the Pentium III are mutated Pentium Pros. They did very well. The Pentium 4 is also scheduled for some mutations in the near future, maybe even by the time you read this. So don't give up on it, but do have enough common sense to realize what's what and when it gets that way.

MONDO COOL

Bill is in love with Elsa, which is quite different from being once in love with Amy. Elsa, for ye who have been living in a cave, makes graphics cards. Its latest is a GeForce2 Ultra-powered card called the Gladiac Ultra 3D, with 64MB of DDR. (Elsa makes good cards, it's just the names it picks for them that sound funny.)

You have to understand, Bill's been tooling along with a TNT2 Ultra card in

his 700MHz Athlon (Classic) system and was relatively happy with it. Quake ran, and that was good. But Bill is a geek at heart. He runs the 2D and 3D benchmarks just to see them run, and he'd always yearned to watch them blur by on the screen (and not just because his graphics card or monitor was dying).

So it came to pass that after months of languishing in the doldrums of fast—but not really, really fast—graphics, Bill broke down and got his grubby hands on a

Gladiac. (Up-front, anti-cardiac-arrest note: It's a \$549 card, estimated retail. Adjust your pacemaker accordingly.) He also got Elsa's 3D Revelator stereo gaming glasses. They're part of the package. (*Hey! Bill hasn't had 3D glasses since he saw the 1953*

remake of Mystery of the Wax Museum, retitled House of Wax, starring Vincent Price. —Cinephile Alice)

Wow! Quake played better, and Bill could finally get it to run in OpenGL mode with real textures. Best of all, the 2D tests were a real blur, and he could call the very first of the 3D tests "Race" without feeling euphemistic. The only problem is, now that he has a card that runs at a 120Hz refresh rate (and likes to do that for the 3D glasses), Bill is now faced with the prospect of getting a new monitor—preferably something in the 19- to 21-inch range. Of course, that would mean a larger desk for it to sit on. You know how things like this snowball.

HAPPY HUNDRED (AND TWO), A&B

If you haven't wished Alice and Bill a happy 100th "Hard Edge" by sending them an e-mail or even a card, shame on you! Luckily, it's a brand-new year and not too late to start things off fresh by sending Alice and Bill a fine rant or comment of a technical nature. Alice has been pleased by all the mail she's been getting now that she controls the e-mail address, so please keep those kind words and comments coming.

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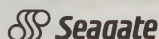
20GB-40GB	180MB/min	DLT4000	\$1285
Above as ext. our case		DLT4000X	\$1415
Above as ext. Qtm case		DLT4000QX	\$1529
40GB-80GB	600MB/min	DLT8000	\$3639
Above as ext. our case		DLT8000X	\$3759
Above as ext. Qtm case		DLT8000QX	\$3969
Media 2-4/5-9/10+		DLT3(DLT3)	\$34/\$33/\$32
Media 2-4/5-9/10+		DLT3XT(DLT3XT)	\$37/\$36/\$35
Media 2-4/5-9/10+		DLT4(DLT4)	\$73/\$70/\$67
2-4/5-9/10+		DLT Cleaning Tape(DLTCLEAN)	\$39/\$37/\$35

• AIT DRIVES •

Sony, Seagate call for price.

Compressed capacity is with maximum compression. Speed and amount of compression depends on your application. Autoloaders may require certain options to get advertised capacity.

ULTRA ATA HARD DRIVES



Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
10.2GB	512K	5400	ST310211A	\$99
20.4GB	512K	5400	ST320413A	\$122
30.0GB	512K	5400	ST330621A	\$138
40.8GB	512K	5400	ST340823A	\$159



15.0GB	2MB	7200	07N5637	\$115
20.0GB	2MB	7200	07N5638	\$138
30.0GB	2MB	7200	07N5639	\$159
45.0GB	2MB	7200	07N5640	\$189
60.0GB	2MB	7200	07N3933	\$319
75.0GB	2MB	7200	07N3935	\$429

Quantum.

10.0GB	128K	4500	QML10000LD	\$105
10.2GB	2MB	7200	QMP10200AS	\$115
20.0GB	128K	4500	QML20000LD	\$118
20.5GB	2MB	7200	QMP20500AS	\$135
30.0GB	128K	4500	QML30000LD	\$129
30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000AS	\$149
40.0GB	128K	4500	QML40000LD	\$149
40.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP40000AS	\$195
60.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP60000AS	\$268

WESTERN DIGITAL

10.0GB	2MB	5400	WD100EB	\$95
20.0GB	2MB	5400	WD200EB	\$119
20.0GB	2MB	7200	WD200BB	\$128
30.0GB	2MB	7200	WD300BB	\$169
40.0GB	2MB	7200	WD400BB	\$199

Call us for the best deals on Maxtor. We are #1 in the US!



10.2GB	2MB	7200	M51023H2	\$109
15.3GB	2MB	7200	M51536H2	\$115
20.0GB	2MB	7200	M52049H3	\$135
30.0GB	2MB	7200	M53073H4	\$159
40.0GB	2MB	7200	M54098H6	\$199
61.4GB	2MB	5400	M96147H8	\$249
81.9GB	2MB	5400	M98196H8	\$311



10.2GB	2MB	7200	MPG3102AH	\$107
15.3GB	2MB	7200	MPG3153AH	\$125
20.4GB	2MB	7200	MPG3204AH	\$135
30.7GB	2MB	7200	MPG3307AH	\$Call



Prolong the life of your hard drive by keeping it COOL!

Mounts in a 5.25" bay. Features dual cooling fans & heat activated circuitry to increase fan speed as the drive gets warmer. A necessity for 7200 & 10,000rpm drives. [VHDFAN] \$25

2.5 LAPTOP DRIVES

TOSHIBA

Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK6014MAP	\$133
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1016GAP	\$157
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK2016MAP	\$239

IBM

5.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4391	\$117
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4390	\$148
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4388	\$229
32.0GB	12.5mm	5400	07N4138	\$489

HITACHI

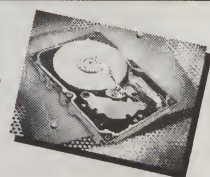
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA60	\$125
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA10	\$149
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA20	\$219

Para Llamadas en Espanol:
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ULTRA/160 SCSI HARD DRIVES



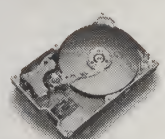
Seagate drives feature the industry's most complete protection solution for data.



9.1GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LW	\$265	\$395
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LW	\$225	\$355
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LVV	\$239	\$369
18.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LW	\$365	\$495
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LW	\$335	\$475
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LVV	\$349	\$479
18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LW	\$509	\$639
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LW	\$615	\$745
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LVV	\$645	\$785
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LW	\$1115	\$1245
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LVV	\$1159	\$1289

Quantum.

Leads the Way in Performance and Reliability.



Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100LW	\$189	\$319
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200LW	\$209	\$339
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400LW	\$315	\$445
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400LW	\$365	\$495
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336700LW	\$525	\$655
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700LW	\$605	\$735
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400LW	\$1125	\$1255

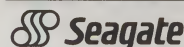


Ultra 160 SCSI

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
9.1GB	4MB	10,000	07N3220	\$235
18.3GB	4MB	10,000	07N3210	\$345
36.9GB	4MB	10,000	07N3200	\$579

We carry a complete line of Ultra 160 SCSI controllers. CALL.

SCA HARD DRIVES



SCA & SCA 160 (Single Connector Attachment)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
9.1GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LC	\$257
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LC	\$225
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LCV	\$237
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LC	\$367
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LC	\$333
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LCV	\$353
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LC	\$611
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LCV	\$639
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LC	\$1099
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LCV	\$1129

Quantum.

SCA & SCA ULTRA-2 (Single Connector Attachment)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100SCA	\$189
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200SCA	\$209
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400SCA	\$313
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400SCA	\$361
36.7GB	4MB	7200	XC336700SCA	\$525
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700SCA	\$599
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400SCA	\$1129

FIBRE 160 HARD DRIVES



18.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST318304FC	\$365
36.7GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST336704FC	\$615
73.4GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST173404FC	\$1099

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Sat: 9am - 3pm

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PERFORMANCE AND RELIABILITY

Quantum Snap! Servers

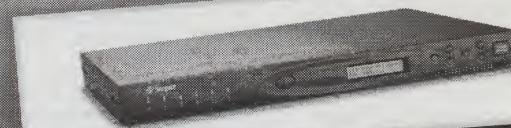


Bring up a Quantum file server and have it on line in minutes.

15GB Single Drive (5325301103)	\$519
30GB Single Drive (5325301105)	\$775
60GB Two Drive (5325301101)	\$1499
120GB Four Drive (5325301085)	\$2529

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OR840 133MHz Bus, AGP 4-PCI 2-USB, RDRAM w/Audio & Lan (BOXOR840GRD) \$1059

Socket 370

D815EEA 133/100/66MHz Bus, 5-PCI, 4-USB, SDRAM w/Audio, Video & Lan (BOXD815EEA) \$155
 CA810E mATX 133/100/66MHz Bus, 4-PCI, w/Audio, Video & Lan (BOXCA810EAL) \$159
 CA810E mATX 133/100/66 MHz Bus, 4-PCI, w/Audio & Video (BOXCA810EA) \$139
 D810EMO 133/100/66 MHz Bus, 1-PCI, 4-USB, w/Audio, Video & Lan (BOX810EMO) \$155

POWER BACKUP

Back-UPS

BK300 \$89
 BK500M \$129
 BK650M \$185

Back-UPS Office

BF280C \$85
 BF350 \$79
 BF500 \$99

Back-UPS Pro 120V

BP280S \$129
 BP420S \$199
 BP650S \$269

Back-UPS Pro 230V

BP420SI \$199
 BP350UC \$149
 BP500CLR \$165
 BP500U \$125

Symmetra RM 208V

SYH2K6RMT \$2419
 SYH4K6RMT \$2569
 SYH6K6RMT \$5379

Smart-UPS 120V

SU420NET \$225
 SU620NET \$295
 SU700NET \$355

Smart-UPS Pro 120V

SU700XLNET \$499
 SU1000NET \$519
 SU1400NET \$659
 SU2200NET \$955

Smart-UPS RM 120, 208V

SU2200XLNET \$1229
 SU3000NET \$1479
 SU3000NET \$1479

Smart-UPS 208V

SU2200XLNET \$1469
 SU3000NET \$1879
 SU3000NET \$1879

Smart-UPS RM 120V

PS250 \$219
 PS450 \$295

SU700RM2U

SU1000RM2U \$555
 SU1400RM2U \$719
 SU1400RMXLNET \$1019

SU2200RM3U

SU2200RMXLNET \$1439
 SU3000RM3U \$1319
 SU3000RMNET \$1419

Smart-UPS RM 208V

SU3000RM3U \$1809
 SU5000RM3U \$2479
 SU5000RM3U \$2479

Smart-UPS RM 120, 208V

SU5000RM3U \$2479
 SU5000RM3U \$2479
 SU5000RM3U \$2479

Symmetra RM 120, 208V

SYH2K6RMT-P1 \$2665
 SYH4K6RMT-P1 \$4239
 SYH6K6RMT-P1 \$5829

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This is just a sampling of the products we have in stock. Visit our webstore for complete listings.

NETWORK PC CARDS — CardBus

16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T, RJ-45, BNC card (3CCE589EC) \$189
 16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T, RJ-45 (3CCE589ET) \$139
 16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, RJ-45 (3CCSH572BT) \$95
 16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, RJ-45, XJACK (3CCFE574BT) \$139
 32 bit, 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, RJ-45 (3CCFE575CT) \$159

FIREWALLS

3Com OfficeConnect Internet

Two 10BASE-T RJ-45 ports \$589
 Three 10BASE-T RJ-45 ports \$124

HUBS By 3Com

Office Connect & SuperStack II

12 10/100BASE-TX w RJ-45 ports (3C16405) \$495
 24 auto sensing 10/100BASE-TX, RJ-45 ports (3C16406) \$875
 12 Twisted Pair RJ-45 ports (3C16440) \$149
 24 Ethernet ports & 1 FE port (3C16450) \$929
 12 auto sensing 10/100 Ethernet, RJ-45 ports (3C16592A) \$309
 24 auto sensing 10/100 Ethernet ports (3C16611) \$899
 6 Ethernet 10BASE-T-FL, Fibre ports (3C16665A) \$1459
 12 Ethernet RJ-45, 10BASE-T ports (3C16670A) \$529
 24 10BASE-T Ethernet, RJ-45 ports (3C16671A) \$929

SWITCHES By 3Com

Office Connect & SuperStack II

12 auto sensing 10/100 BASE-TX, FE ports (3C16464A) \$435
 4 10/100BASE-TX, RJ-45 ports w/MDI/MDIX-#8 (3C16733A) \$99
 8 10/100BASE-TX, RJ-45 ports w/MDI/MDIX-#8 (3C16734B-US) \$145
 24 10BASE-T UTP, 2 10/100 TX ports (3C16950) \$919
 12 10BASE-T UTP E & 2 10/100BASE-TX FE ports (3C16951) \$639
 24 10/100BASE-TX FE ports, exp slot (3C16980) \$1739

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700MHz, 256KB, 100FSB FC-PGA	\$26F700256E	\$229
700MHz, 256KB, 100FSB S.E.C.C.2	\$26U700256E	\$232
800MHz, 256KB, 100FSB FC-PGA	\$26F800256E	\$298
800MHz, 256KB, 100FSB S.E.C.C.2	\$26H800256E	\$302
800MHz, 256KB, 133FSB FC-PGA	\$26C800256E	\$298
933MHz, 256KB, 133FSB FC-PGA	\$26C933256E	\$595
933MHz, 256KB, 133FSB S.E.C.C.2	\$26U933256E	\$595

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NETWORK INTERFACE CARDS

This is just a small sampling of the cards we carry. Ask us if we carry the card you're looking for or check out our webstore under the "Networking" listing.

Ethernet NIC

10 ISA TPO Network	(3C509B-TPO)	\$65
10/100 ISA Network	(3C515-TX)	\$159
10 ISA Combo Network	(3C509B-CMB)	\$125
10 ISA TPC Network	(3C509B-TPC)	\$75
10/100 PCI Network	(3C905B-TXNM)	\$79
10 Fiber Network	(3C900B-FLST)	\$169
100 PCI Fiber Network	(3C905B-FXSC)	\$255
10 PCI TPO Network	(3C900B-TPO)	\$59
10 PCI Combo Network	(3C900B-COMBO)	\$139
10/100 PCI Combo Network	(3C905B-COMBO)	\$139
10/100 PCI Network	(3C980C-TXM)	\$99

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Acer 10x4X32 IDE Int. (CRW1032A) \$159 8MB buffer, with software & 1 RW disk	
Hewlett Packard 10x4x32 IDE With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	Int. (C4492A) \$219
Sony 12x8x32 IDE With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	Int. (CRX160EA1) \$269
Hewlett Packard 12x8x32 IDE With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	Int. (C4502A) \$289
Creative 12x10X32 IDE With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	Int. (CDRW121032) \$279
Plextor 12x10x32 IDE With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	Int. (PXW121032R) \$275
Teac 12x10x32 IDE With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	Int. (CDW512E/KIT) \$275
Ricoh 12x10x32 IDE With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	Int. (MP7120A) \$275
Yamaha 16x10x40 IDE Bare drive	Int. (YCRW2100E) \$289

SCSI CD REWRITABLES

Sony 10x4x32 SCSI Int. (CRX145S) \$279 Ext. (CRX145SX) \$339	
Plextor 12x4x32 SCSI Int. (PXW12432B) \$289 Ext. (PXW12432BX) \$349	
Hewlett Packard 12x8x32 SCSI Int. (C4506A) \$339 with software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	
Plextor 12x10x32 SCSI Int. (PXW1210TSB) \$289 Ext. (PXW1210TSBX) \$349	
Yamaha 16x10x40 SCSI Int. (YCRW2100S) \$319 Ext. (YCRW2100SX) \$379	

1394 & USB CDR-WS

Teac 4x4x6 USB	[CDW54EUSB] \$249
Sony 4x4x6 USB	[CRX100E/X2] \$299
Sony 10x4x32 1394	[CRX145E/X1] \$349

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Complete CD labeling system. Includes Software with over 1200 predesigned backgrounds & clip art, 50 labels, label applicator, and 20 sets of jewel case inserts. Easy to use. With the included stand-alone software, making professional-looking labels is easy. CD Stomper Pro software works with Win 3.1, 95, NT, & Mac. Alone/With CDR drive purchase \$25/\$19

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- 1 Plextor 40 CD-ROM Drive
- 5 Plextor 12x10x32 CD-RW Drives

(MHCDDUPES) \$2395

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16x (CDR74-5/20/50/100)	Standard 5/20/50/100 pack: \$6/\$24/\$56/\$105
16x (CDR74PA-5/20/50/100)	Platinum 5/20/50/100 pack: \$6/\$24/\$57/\$106

Printable CDR-74 in jewel case

16x (CDR74PB-5/20/50/100)	Budget 5/20/50/100 pack: \$4/\$15/\$35/\$66
16x (CDR74P-5/20/50/100)	Standard 5/20/50/100 pack: \$7/\$26/\$62/\$115

CD-R80 80 minute media

16x (CDR80-5/20/50/100)	Budget 5/20/50/100 pack: \$4/\$13/\$32/\$59
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CD REWRITABLE MEDIA

CD-R74W in jewel case

4x (CDR74WB-5/20/50/100)	Budget 5/20/50/100 pack: \$6/\$24/\$56/\$104
4x (CDR74W-5/20/50/100)	Standard 5/20/50/100 pack: \$12/\$45/\$107/\$199
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MicroSolutions

These external drives easily interface with your computer's parallel printer port. They also have a pass through connector so you can use your printer at the same time.

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4x4x24 CD Rewritable	(BACKPAC4X24)	\$255
20GB Hard Drive for USB also!	(BACKPACK20G)	\$255

CD ROM READERS

• SCSI DRIVES •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	External
Teac	CD532S	32X	85ms	\$72	\$132
NEC	CDR3010	40X	85ms	\$69	\$129
Plextor	PX40TS(iray)	40X	85ms	\$89	\$149
Kenwood	UCR415	52X	90ms	\$143	\$203

• WIDE SCSI DRIVES •

Plextor	PX40TSUW	40X	85ms	\$99	\$189
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• ATAPI DRIVES (IDE) •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	Int Kit
Teac	CD540E	40X	85ms	\$43	\$73
Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	48X	65ms	\$41	\$71
Toshiba	XM6702B	48X	85	\$47	\$77
Acer	CD650P	50X	85ms	\$41	\$71
Creative	SBCD52	52X	100ms	\$40	\$70
Kenwood	UCR421	72X	100ms	\$110	\$140

IDE CD Rom Case for parallel printer port (PCMCIA) \$59
HotPort External IDE CD case w/cable & card (HOTPORT) \$129
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live MP3+5.1 (SB060603002) \$95
CD Driver Software for Mac (RAPIDFD) \$8

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Pioneer	IDE (tray)	40X/80ms	16X, 110ms	DVD115	\$115
Pioneer	SCSI	40X/90ms	10X, 120ms	DVD304	\$147

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TOSHIBA

Precision and Excellence

Bare	Interface	CD Speed	DVD Speed	Part #	Price
Toshiba	IDE	48X/95ms	16X, 115ms	SDM1502	\$149

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MegaHaus 16X Drive kit (DVD16KIT) \$175
Creative Encore 12X DVD Drive kit (CLDVD12KIT) \$195
Hollywood MPEG-2 Decoder (HOLLYWOOD) \$55
Waveless wireless transmitter allows you to transmit DVD movies from computer to TV (PCTOTV) \$99 or \$95 w/DVD drive.

CD MULTIDRIVE TOWERS

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4 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS				7 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS			
(Ask about our UltraWides)				(We also carry NEC & Kenwood brands)			
40X	85ms	Plextor	\$429	40X	85ms	Plextor	\$759
40X	85ms	NEC	\$359	40X	85ms	NEC	\$619

Ethernet CD Towers - Built-in 10 baseT or 100 baseT Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Windows 95, NT, OS/2, DOS, and UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks, and NFS. Prices shown for 10base T, 10/100 also available. CALL.

Speed	Brand	7 Drive	Item #	13 Drive	Item #
40X	Plextor	\$1259	#PLEX40X7N	\$2069	#PLEX40X13T
40X	NEC	\$1109	#NEC3010X7N	\$1799	#NEC3010X13T
52X	Kenwood	\$1599	#KEN415X7N	\$2739	#KEN415X13T

Many, many more configurations available. Call for a quote. Let us build one for you!

New! Auto Switching Ethernet CD Towers

Auto switches between 10 baseT or 100 base T Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, Win for Workgroups, OS/2, HTTP, Mac, and UNIX. Pre-assembled. 40x drive speed, 8 drive tower. (MIT40X8N) \$1189
48x drive speed, 8 drive tower. (MIT48X8N) \$1219

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ZIP & JAZ MEDIA

IOmega 100MB ZIP

Int. IDE [ZIP250A] / 5 Pack [ZIP100A-S]	\$149/\$279
Int. SCSI [ZIP100I]	\$89
Parallel Ext. [PPZIP100]	\$99
Ext. USB [ZIP100USB]	\$99
Zip media [ZIP100C] 2-9/10+	\$12/10

IOmega 250MB ZIP

Int. IDE [ZIP250A]	\$149
Ext. for PC Parallel Port [PPZIP250]	\$149
Ext. USB for PC or Mac [ZIP250USB]	\$165
Ext. SCSI for PC or Mac [ZIP250]	\$149

IOmega 2GB JAZ

Internal SCSI [JAZ2I]	\$299
External SCSI [JAZ2X]	\$339
Jaz 1 GB media [JAZ1GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	\$80/77/75
Jaz 2 GB media [JAZ2GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	\$85/80/77

OPTICAL DRIVES

• SONY 5.2GB •

Compatible with 5 1/4" 650MB, 1.3GB, & 2.6GB disks.	
SCSI Drive Int. [SMOF551] / Ext. [SMOF551X]	\$1399/1459
5.2GB media [SMA5S.2] 1-4/5-9/10+	\$83/80/77

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Brand/Model	Resolution	Zoom	Part #/Price
Epson PhotoPC 750Z	1600x1200	6X	(B080011F) \$469
Sony Mavica	640x480	10X	(MVCFD73) \$495
Sony Mavica	1280x960	8X/16X	(MVCFD88) \$879
Epson PhotoPC 800	1984x1488	2X	(B105011F) \$469
Epson PhotoPC 850Z	1984x1488	3X	(B111021F) \$745
Epson PhotoPC 3000Z	2544x1904	3X/6X	(B123011F) \$919
HP PhotoSmart C500xi	1600x1200	3X/6X	(C6746A) \$499
Sony Mavica	1280x960	3X/6X	(MVCFD85) \$695
Sony Mavica	1472x1104	8X/16X	(MVCFD90) \$795

Cameras listed above feature liquid crystal displays.

MULTIMEDIA

Brand/Model	Part #	Price
GRAPHICS CARDS		
Diamond Viper II AGP w/S3 Savage2000	90230302	\$95
ATI All-In-Wonder 128 PCI w/32MB SDRAM	100-708036	\$195
3dfx Voodoo5 5500 AGP w/64MB SDRAM	V555464	\$295
3dfx Voodoo3 3500 TV AGP	V3T416	\$179
3dfx Voodoo3 3000 AGP w/16MB SDRAM	V33416	\$125
ATI RAGE FURY 128 AGP w/32MB SDRAM	100-416045	\$115
3dfx Voodoo3 3000 PCI w/16MB SDRAM	V33316	\$125

IMAGE CAPTURE DEVICES

Sony Handycam Media Converter	DVMCA2	\$349
Sony Digital MaviCap Recorder	MVC-FDR1	\$319
Sony Digital MaviCap Recorder w/LCD Monitor	MVC-FDR3	\$539

VIDEO EDITING

Create your own in-house video editing studio!

Studio DC10plus Motion-JPEG Video Capture Kit	160300010R	\$89
MicroVIDEO DV500 Digital Video Editing Kit	16535001N	\$869
MicroVIDEO DC50 Digital Video Editing Kit	510001	\$1259
MicroVIDEO DC30pro Dig. Video Editing Soft.Kit	330001	\$519
MicroMOTION DC30 + Video/Audio Editing for Mac	331001	\$795

SOUND ACCESSORIES



Earphone - Home stereo & comfort	(LT830)	\$21
Earphone - Portable audio & home stereo use	(LT820)	\$13
Headset/Microphone - Internet & multimedia	(C322)	\$20
Headset/Microphone - Speech recognition	(LVA8450)	\$39
Hand Microphone - Optimal voice clarity	(AM222)	\$13
PC Microphone - Features wide base stand	(AM240)	\$12
Computer Speakers - Quality sound	(LCS1060)	\$29
Computer Speakers - Crystal-clear sound	(LCS1070)	\$35
Computer Speakers - Dynamic, realistic sound	(LCS2422)	\$65
Computer Speakers - Hi-Performance 3D audio	(APX4620)	\$129
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MAKE IT REMOVABLE



It's 2AM - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FILES ARE?
Your data is valuable to you. Keep it safe by keeping it with you. Key on your drive when you start in the morning, key off & take it home with you at night. This is the best data security measure on the market.

DATA-PORT V Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers. New IDE 66 is backward compatible with ATA-33 drives.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 with plastic cartridge (DP2200AM66)	\$79	n/a
IDE 66 with metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	\$87	\$96
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UW)	\$105	\$114
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	\$42	n/a
Metal IDE 66 (DPACART66)	\$50	\$60
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPWUCART)	\$61	\$71
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	\$44	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPWUFRAME)	\$51	

DATA-PORT VI Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame and cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	\$108	\$117
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UW)	\$128	\$137
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	\$139	\$149
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	\$61	\$71
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPWUCARTM)	\$75	\$85
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCART)	\$88	\$98
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCFRAME)	\$54	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPWUFRAME)	\$61	
SCA (DPSCFRAME)	\$63	

ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI

Cover plate (DPFFLATE)	\$8	\$10
Metal Carrying Case. Fully lined w/security lock (DPCASEM)	\$49	

Keep your data safe - in fact, this is the ultimate in data safety. When you want to lock up your data - lock up your whole drive! With DataPort - You CAN take it with you when you go.

BACKUP SOFTWARE

Seagate Backup Exec

Windows 95 & 98 (SBEWDWD)	\$65
Windows NT workstation (SBENTWD)	\$69
Windows single server (SBENTSE)	\$419
Windows NT multi server (SBENTME)	\$859
Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	\$429
Network single server & unlimited users (SBEWSE)	\$409
Network multi server (SBEWME)	\$829

NovaStor

NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2. Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	\$49
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000 Server (29801)	\$115
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000 Workstation (29821)	\$55
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	\$295
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	\$395
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	\$639

(We also have NovaNet 8 for NetWare. Call for pricing)

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USB DRIVES & ACCESSORIES

100MB Zip Drive — Iomega USB 100MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software. (ZIP100USB) \$99

4x4x6 CD Rewritable for PC or Mac — Master Cds with this complete kit. Includes mastering software and drive in high quality external USB case. (CRX100E/X2) \$279

2.2GB Orb — Revolutionary removable media storage by Castlewood Systems holds 2.2GB of uncompressed storage capacity. Includes a 2.2GB cartridge. (ORBUSB) \$189

250MB Zip — Iomega USB 250MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software. (ZIP250USB) \$165

USB to SCSI Adapter — USB to SCSI adapter by Adaptec. Allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port. Supports up to 7 SCSI devices. (USBSCSI) \$69

SuperDisk Drive 120MB & Floppy — Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks. (USBL120) \$139

1394 USB/PCI Board — 2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals. (70HTL00060) \$125

Floppy Drive — Teac USB floppy for iMac. Reads & writes Mac and PC formats. Features iMac blue case. (USBFLOPPY) \$85

USB Hard Drives — USB external hard drive with built-in fan & USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

10GB (USB10GB) \$165	15GB (USB15GB) \$179
20GB (USB20GB) \$205	30GB (USB30GB) \$229

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1394/FIREWIRE PRODUCTS

1394 PCMCIA CardBus — Hot plug connect multimedia peripherals without restarting. (70HTL00040) \$105

1394 USB/PCI Board — 2 1394 & 2 USB ext. ports for plug & play peripherals. USB/PCI Board (70HTL00060) \$125

1394 PCI/Mac Board Kit — Edit video from your PC or your Macintosh (70HTL13941) \$89

1394 Hub — Disconnect 1394 peripherals without disturbing peripherals in a daisy chain. (70HTL00030) \$89

1394 Repeater — (70HTL00020) \$45

1394 15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin (70CAB13943) \$28

1394 15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 6pin (70CAB13942) \$30

1394 UMAX PowerLook 1100 Scanner with DuoDesign Software Bundle (SPKG14006) \$979

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COLOR MONITORS

Viewable Display	Description	From ViewSonic	Item No.	Price
16"	1600x1200, .25 ag		PF775	\$349
16"	1600x1280, .26		PS775-2	\$329
18"	1600x1200, .25 ag		PF790	\$509
15"	1024x768, TFT Active Matrix		VG150	\$999
18.1"	1600x1200, LCD		VP181	\$2895
20"	Professional Series		PF815	\$989
20"	Nokia Series CRT		44S2a	\$979
20"	Optquest Series		Q110	\$695
19.6"	Nokia Series FD Trinitron CRT		44Spro	\$2005
20"	Professional Series Xtreme		P817	\$1789

COLOR PRINTERS

INKJETS by EPSON

Color 777i (iMac)	C383111	\$115
Color 860	C303001	\$135
Color 980	C380001	\$259
Color 980N (Network)	C380111	\$459
Photo 870	C304101	\$259
Photo 875D	C364011	\$319
Photo 1270	C296011	\$499
Pro 5000	C228011B	\$2579
Pro 5000 Fiery LX RIP	C228011S	\$6759
Pro 7000	C299011B	\$3899
Pro 9000	C277011B	\$7699
Pro 9000 Fiery X2 RIP	C277011S	\$12599

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Motherboards

SUPERMICRO

S2QR6-Quad Xeon, 2x7899 U3/160MB, Lan, Case.....	\$4265
S2QE6-Quad Xeon, 2x7899 U3/160MB, Lan, Case.....	\$3545
S2DL3-Dual Xeon, 133FSB, 7892 U3/160MB, Lan.....	\$579
P6S2DG2-Dual Xeon, 2x7896 U2/S3.....	\$479
370DER-2xP3, 7899/160MB, 2xLan, 133FSB, VGA.....	\$725
370DE6-2xP3, 7899/160MB, Lan, 133FSB.....	\$565
370DLR-2xP3, 7892/160MB, 2xLan, 133FSB, VGA.....	\$645
370DL3-2xPCPGA, 7892/160MB, Lan, 133MHz FSB.....	\$489
370DLE-LE chip, 2xPCPGA, Lan, 133MHz FSB.....	\$309
370SSR-815E, 7899/160MB, 2xLan, 133MHz FSB.....	\$435
370SSA-815E, Ultra 100MB, 133MHz FSB, Audio.....	\$149
370SSM-815, 133FSB, ATA/66, Audio.....	\$135
P3DR3-840, 133FSB, 7892/160MB, Lan, Rambus.....	\$549
P3DR6-840, 133FSB, 7892/160MB, Lan, Rambus, AGP.....	\$339
P6DGI-Dual P2/3, GX, U2 W/S3.....	\$429
P6DBU-Dual P2/3, BX, U2 W/S3.....	\$399
P6DBE-Dual P2/3, BX, 2xIDE, ATX.....	\$175
P6SBU-P2/3, BX, 7890 U2/S3.....	\$297

ASUS

CUR-DLS-2xP3, 7892/160MB, 2xLan, 133FSB, VGA.....	\$695
P2B-DS-Dual P2/3, BX, 7890 U2/S3.....	\$459
A7V-KT133 VIA, AMD Socket A, U-100MB, ATX.....	\$159
CUSL2-815E, 133FSB, Ultra 100MB, Audio, AGP.....	\$165
CUV4X-Via, 133FSB, ATA/66, Audio.....	\$125
K7V-AMD K7, 133FSB, ATA/66.....	\$135
P2B-S-P2/3, BX, 7890 U2 SCSI, IDE.....	\$325

S-2510U3-2x370, 133FSB, U-160 S3, 2xLan, VGA.....	\$599
S-2510NG-2x370, 133FSB, 2xLan, VGA.....	\$459
S-1837UANGR-2xP2/3, U2, Lan/Raid.....	\$525
S-2390-AMD K7, ATA/66, PC-133.....	\$125

Micro-Star International

815EP-815, 133FSB, Audio, U100MB, ATX.....	\$119
K7 TPro-AMD K7, 200MHz, Audio, ATA/66.....	\$119

intel

Tupelo-2x370, 133FSB, SCSI, Lan.....	\$649
L40GX-2xP3, GX, U2/S3, VGA, Lan.....	\$479
815EAL-815, 133FSB, Audio/Lan, VGA.....	\$145
810EAL-810, 133FSB, Audio/Lan, VGA.....	\$149

Gigabyte

GA-60XM7E-815E, Ultra 100MB, Audio.....	\$135
GA-7ZX-VIA/Duron, Ultra 66, ATX.....	\$125
GA71XE-AMD K7, 133FSB, ATA/66.....	\$115

ASUS

DCB133-2xP2/3, 840, U2/S3, 133MHz.....	\$675
DCA200-2xXeon, 840, 133FSB, WTX.....	\$575
DS133R-2xP2/3, 820, 133, 2xRambus.....	\$295
DBL100-2xP2/3, BX, 7890 U2/S3.....	\$439
DBD100-Dual P2/3, BX, IDE.....	\$195
VD133-P2/3, Via, 133/150MHz, ATA66.....	\$149
WS133-810E/S1.4M/VGA, Lan, SC.....	\$155

ABIT Computer Corp.

SA6-Raid-815E, 133FSB, U-100, 4xAGP.....	\$169
SE6-815E, 133FSB, U-100MB, Audio.....	\$149
KT7-Raid VIA, TB, U-100, 4xAGP.....	\$165
BA-133-Raid-BX, 133FSB, Audio, U-100MB.....	\$135
KX-AMD K7, Via-133, ATA/66.....	\$135

CPU & Memory

intel AMD Celeron

Intel Xeon 450/550/700 (1M).....	\$598/\$1059/\$1395
Intel P3-866/933/1G.....	\$279/\$369/\$529
Intel P3-750/800/850.....	\$199/\$225/\$255
Intel P3-650/700/733.....	\$169/\$185/\$195
Intel P3-500/550/600.....	\$155/\$159/\$165
Celeron 633/667/700/733.....	\$89/\$95/\$109/\$135
AMD K7-950/1G/1.1G.....	\$259/\$279/\$365
AMD K7-800/850/900.....	\$159/\$179/\$189
AMD K7-650/700/750.....	\$85/\$115/\$135
Rambus 64/128/256.....	\$185/\$255/\$675
EDO Simm 16/32/64.....	\$39/\$75/\$165
Sdm-32/64/128/256.....	\$29/\$45/\$79/\$135
Sdm-ECC-64/128/256.....	\$49/\$89/\$159
Sdm-ECC-512M/1M.....	\$765/Call

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Deluxe Xeon Server



*Supermicro S2QR6-Quad Xeon	
*512MB ECC Reg. (upto 16GB)	
*Adaptec AD2100, Ultra-160 Raid Card	
*54GB (3x18GB) U2 w/Hot-Swap	
*Seagate 12-24GB DDS-3 SCSI Tape	
*100MB IDE Zip, 1.44MB Floppy	
*Adaptec 7899 U3, Ultra-160 LVD	
*Sony 48x IDE CD-Rom	
*Intel 100BT Lan, ATIVGA w/4M	
*Server Case, 3x400W Redundant	
*MS-Mouse & 104keys Keyboard	
Xeon 450-Dual Quad.....	\$8159/\$9329
Xeon 550-Dual Quad.....	\$9229/\$11479
Xeon 700/1M-Dual Quad.....	\$9559/\$12139
Xeon 700/2M-Dual Quad.....	\$11499/\$15999
Xeon 933-Dual Quad.....	\$9389/\$9799

Ultimate Quad Server



*Supermicro S2DL3 Dual Xeon	
*Server WorkLE chip, 10-133FSB	
*256MB ECC Reg (upto 4GB)	
*Adaptec 7892 Ultra-160 LVD	
*18GB, 10Krpm, Ultra-160MB	
*12-24GB DDS-3 SCSI Tape drive	
*100MB IDE Zip, 1.44MB floppy	
*Sony 48x IDE CD-Rom	
*34MB AGP Videocard	
*Intel Express Pro PCI 10/100BT	
*Supermicro 750/FU-Tower 300W	
*MS-Mouse & 104keys Keyboard	
Dual Xeon 450-512K.....	\$3229
Dual Xeon 550-512K.....	\$4299
Dual Xeon 700-1M/2M.....	\$4629/\$6579
Dual Xeon 933-256K.....	\$3459

4U Web Server



*Dual CPU Ready, 128MB SDRAM	
*Adaptec 7890 Ultra2 W/S3 (80MB)	
*9GB U2 W/S3 hard drive	
*100MB IDE Zip, 1.44MB Floppy	
*48x Speed IDE CD-ROM	
*Trident T975, 3D AGP w/4MB	
*Intel Express Pro PCI 10/100BT	
*4U/19" Rackmount, w/250W ATX	
*MS-Mouse & 104keys Keyboard	
Dual P3-600E/650E.....	\$1379/\$1389
Dual P3-600E/650E.....	\$1399/\$1419
Dual P3-700E/750E.....	\$1459/\$1499
Dual P3-800E/850E.....	\$1529/\$1619
Upgrade to Raid 0, 1, 5.....	Call
Redhat Linux 6.2 (CD&Manual).....	\$49

2U Web Server



*Supermicro P6DGI, Intel 440GX	
*Dual CPU, 128MB/100MHz	
*Adaptec 7890 U2, 80MB/sec	
*9GB U2 LVD, 80MB/S, W/S3	
*48x Speed IDE CD-ROM	
*4M PCI VGA, 1.44 floppy drive	
*Intel Express Pro PCI 10/100BT	
*2U/19" Rackmount, w/250W ATX	
*3x PCI Riser card	
*MS-Mouse & 104keys Keyboard	
Dual P3-500/550.....	\$1469/\$1489
Dual P3-600E/650E.....	\$1499/\$1529
Dual P3-700E/750E.....	\$1559/\$1599
Dual P3-800E/850E.....	\$1629/\$1729
Upgrade to Intel L440GX.....	\$79

1U Web Server

*Intel 815EAL w/CPU & Fan	
*Intel 815 Schipset, 66/100/133FSB	
*128MB SDRAM (upto 512MB)	
*20GB, 9ms, 7200rpm ATA/100MB	
*Integrated 4x AGP VGA	
*Integrated 10-100BT Lan & Audio	
*1U Riser card for 2nd Lan card	
*48x Speed IDE CD-Rom	
*31/2" 1.44MB floppy drive	
*PS2 104key keyboard & MS-Mouse	
*Black 1U/19" Rackmount, 200W	
Intel P3-600E/600EB.....	\$859/\$869
Intel P3-650E/667EB.....	\$879/\$889
Intel P3-700E/733EB.....	\$899/\$919
Intel P3-750E/800EB.....	\$929/\$939
Intel P3-850E/866EB.....	\$979/\$999
Intel P3-933EB/1000EB.....	\$1109/\$1249

1U SCSI Server

*370SSR, 815chip, 100/133MHz FSB	
*370FCPGA CPU w/Fan	
*128MB SDRAM (upto 512MB)	
*9GB U2 LVD, 160MB/sec	
*Adaptec 7899 LVD, 160MB/sec	
*2x Ultra ATA/100MB IDE	
*Integrated 4x AGP VGA	
*Integrated 10-100BT Lan & Audio	
*48x Speed CD-Rom, 1.44MB floppy	
*PS2 104key keyboard & MS-Mouse	
*Black 1U/19" Rackmount, 200W	
C-633/667/600.....	\$1169/\$1179/\$1189
C-633/667/700.....	\$1179/\$1189/\$1219
P3-600/650/667.....	\$1239/\$1249/\$1259
P3-700/733/750.....	\$1269/\$1299/\$1309
P3-800/866/850.....	\$1319/\$1329/\$1359
P3-866/933/1000.....	\$1389/\$1489/\$1639

1U/2U Dual Web Server

*370DLR, Dual P3 FCPGA CPU Ready	
*Server WorkLE chip, 100-133FSB	
*256MB ECC Reg (upto 4GB)	
*9GB 6ms, 7200rpm, 160MB SCSI	
*Integrated Adaptec 7892 Ultra-160	
*Integrated 2x 10-100BT Lan	
*Integrated PCI VGA, 8M	
*48x Speed IDE CD-Rom	
*3.5" 1.44MB floppy drive	
*PS2 104key keyboard & MS-Mouse	
*Black 1U or 2U/19" Rackmount	
Dual P3-600E/600EB.....	\$1719/\$1729
Dual P3-650E/667EB.....	\$1739/\$1749
Dual P3-700E/733EB.....	\$1779/\$1829
Dual P3-750E/800EB.....	\$1859/\$1879
Dual P3-850E/866EB.....	\$1959/\$1989
Dual P3-933EB/1000EB.....	\$2219/\$2519

4U Linux Raid 5 Server

*370DLE, Dual FCPGA CPU Ready	
*Server WorkLE chip, 100-133FSB	
*256MB ECC Reg (upto 4GB)	
*AD2100S, 160MB Raid Card	
*3x 9GB/160MB, Raid 5 Ready	
*48x Speed IDE CD-ROM	
*4M PCI VGA, 1.44 floppy drive	
*Integrated 10-100BT Lan	
*4U/19" Rackmount, 6x5.25" Bays	
*MS-Mouse & 104keys Keyboard	
Dual P3-600E/600EB.....	\$2349/\$2359
Dual P3-650E/667EB.....	\$2369/\$2389
Dual P3-700E/733EB.....	\$2429/\$2479
Dual P3-750E/800EB.....	\$2489/\$2519
Dual P3-850E/866EB.....	\$2599/\$2629
Dual P3-933EB/1000EB.....	\$2849/\$3149

Video Cards

ATI Radeon AGP 3264MB.....	\$179/\$295
Page Fury Max AGP 64MB.....	\$129
AIH-W128, 1632MB AGP.....	\$139/\$175
Xpert 2000 Pro AGP, 1632MB.....	\$75/\$79
Diamond S5401, 1632MB AGP.....	\$65/\$69
Diamond Viper II, AGP 32MB.....	\$99
Matrix G450D, 1632MB AGP.....	\$105/\$165
3DFX-9500, Tuner, 16MB AGP.....	\$159
3DFX-5500 AGP 64MB.....	\$255
Oxygen Vx1, 1632MB AGP.....	\$125/\$175
Oxygen GVX1, AGP 32MB.....	\$549
Oxygen GVX210, AGP 64MB.....	\$1365
Elsa Gladiac AGP 3264MB.....	\$275/\$375
Elsa Synergy III, Quadro 2MxP.....	\$489
Elsa Gloria III, Quadro 2 Pro.....	\$1219
Asus V7700 Pure Deluxe, 32MB.....	\$239/\$269

Tape Backup

HP-C1554, 4mm Dat, 12/24GB SCSI.....	\$745
HP-C1599, 4mm Dat, 4/8GB SCSI.....	\$559
Seagate Tape Drive:	
STT28000A, 4/8GB TR4, IDE.....	\$175
STT28000N, 4/8GB TR4, SCSI.....	\$219
STD28000N, 4/8GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....	\$345
STD224000N, 12/24GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....	\$559
SONY Tape Drive:	
SDT5000K, 4-8GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....	\$375
SDT7000K, 4-8GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....	\$579
SDT9000K, 12/24GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....	\$675
Quantum Tape Drive:	
DLT4000, 10/20GB, Int/Ext.....	\$685/\$819
DLT7000, 20/40GB, Int/Ext.....	\$2645/\$2975
DLT8000, 35/70GB, Int/Ext.....	\$2845/\$2975
Imaging Zip 100MB IDE drive.....	\$75
Imaging Zip 250MB IDE drive.....	\$135

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HP-9500, 12x4x32 IDE Rewriter.....	\$285
Teac-54E, 4x4x32 IDE Rewriter.....	\$139
Plexor, 12x10x32 IDE CD Rewriter.....	\$259
E210, 17", 1600x1200, 24dpi, 60KHz.....	\$339
G400, 19", 1600x1280, 24dpi.....	\$625
E400, 19", 1800x1440, 24, 109K.....	\$515
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A900, 19", 1600x1280, 28, 92K.....	\$445
PF950, 19", 1920x1440, 25, 110K.....	\$559
HITACHI	
CM1615U, 17", 1280x1024, 22, 69K.....	\$235
CM771U, 19", 1600x1200, 22, 107K.....	\$459
CM181U, 21", 1600x1200, 22, 99K.....	\$865
CM1813+, 21", 1920x1440, 25dpi, USB.....	\$999

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PF775, 17" 1600x1280, 24dpi, Flat.....	\$349
E790, 19" 1600x1280, 26dpi, 95K.....	\$365
G81021, 1600x1280, 25dpi, 89K.....	\$785
P815, 21" 1600x1440, 25dpi, USB.....	\$875

Mitsubishi

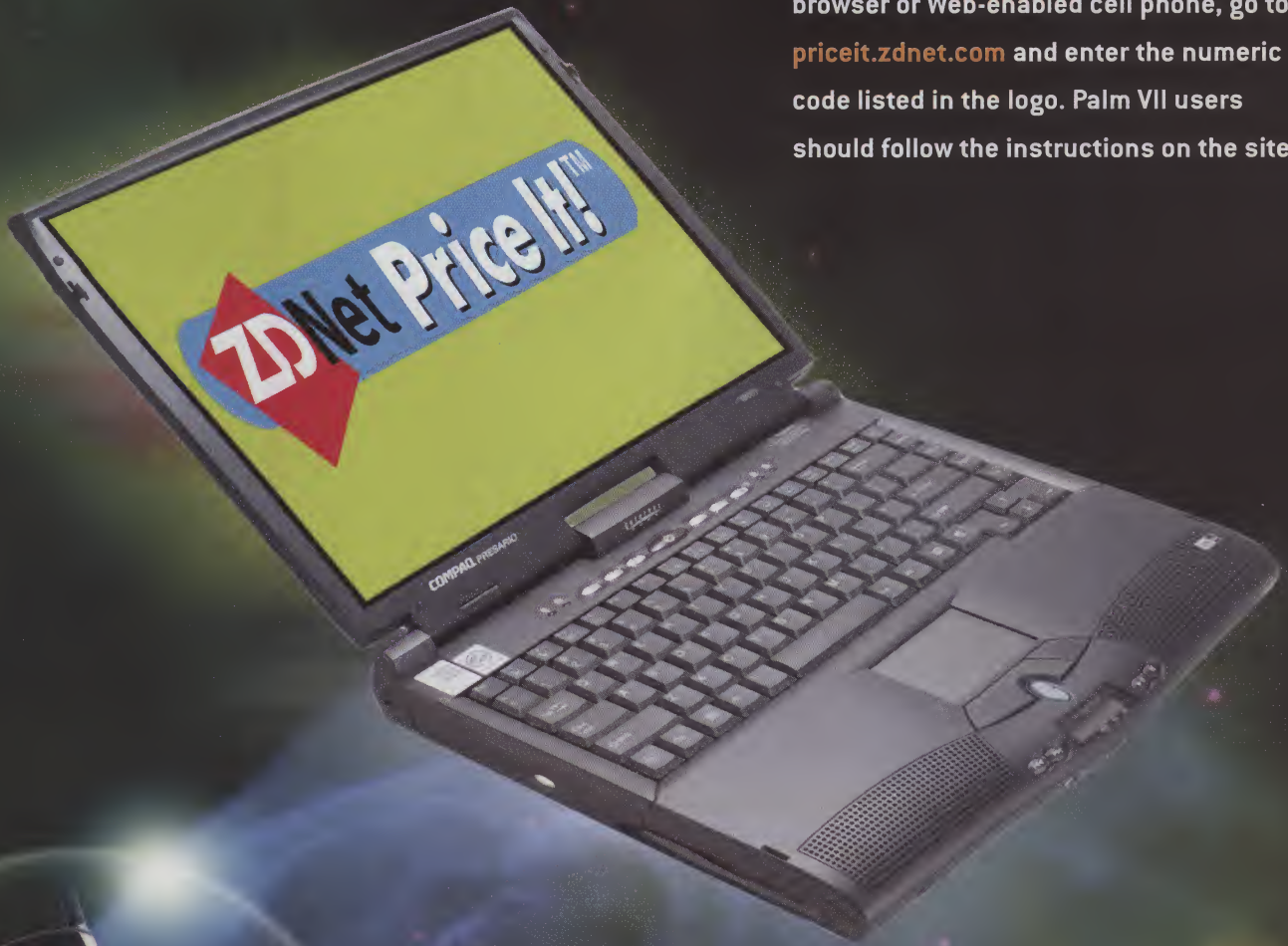
DS-70, 17", 1280x1024, 28dpi, 70K.....	\$255
DP-73, 17", 1280x1024, 25dpi, 70K.....	\$289
DP-91, 19", 1200x1024, 25dpi, 85K.....	\$475
DP-900U, 19", 1600x1200, Flat, 95K.....	\$675
DP202022, 1800x1440, 22dpi, Flat.....	\$1119
XJ77017, 17" 1280x1024, 27dpi, 70K.....	\$239
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XJ91021, 1600x1200, 28dpi, 110K.....	\$845

Hard Drives

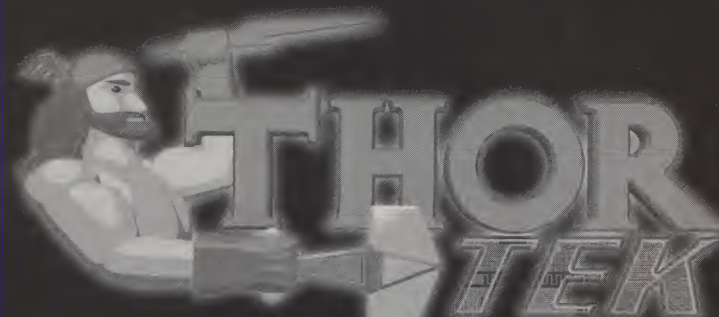
307020, 20GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$135
307030, 30GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$155
307045, 45GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$185
307060, 60GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$235
307075, 75GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$295
309170LW, 9.1GB, 7200rpm, U2, 4M.....	\$245
109170LW, 9GB, 10Krpm/160MB.....	\$249
318350LW, 18GB, 7200rpm, U2, 4M.....	\$349
DMV518LW, 18GB, 10Krpm/160MB.....	\$355
DMV536LW, 36GB, 10Krpm/160.....	\$575
tor53073U, 30GB, 7200rpm.....	\$155
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tor5T060, 61GB, 7200rpm.....	\$279
tor98196H, 81GB, 5400rpm.....	\$295
205BA, 20GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$125
307AA, 30GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$149
400BB, 40GB, 7200rpm, 100MB.....	\$179
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Quantum-30910TN, 9GB, 10Krpm/160M.....	\$249
Quantum-318300LW, 18GB, 7200rpm/160.....	\$329
Quantum-318400LW, 18GB, 10Krpm.....	\$355
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Quantum-336400TN, 36GB, 10Krpm/160.....	\$585
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gate-39204LW, 9GB, 10Krpm/160MB.....	\$275
gate-31840LW, 18GB, 7200rpm/60.....	\$335
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gate-33074ALW, 36GB, 10Krpm/60.....	\$629
gate-12940LW, 12GB, 10Krpm/60.....	\$159

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8x4x32 IDE Acer	\$139	\$189
8x8x32 IDE Pacific Digital U-30102	\$139	\$189
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12x4x32 IDE lomega 31236	\$235	\$285
12x8x32 IDE Sony CRX160E/AI	\$249	\$299
12x8x32 IDE HP SureStore 9500I	\$265	\$315
12x10x32 IDE Teac CDW512E	\$228	\$278
12x10x32 IDE Plextor PX-W1210TA/SW	\$239	\$289
12x10x32 IDE Ricoh MP7120A	\$255	\$305
12x10x32 IDE Creative Labs CDR121032	\$235	\$285
12x10x32 IDE lomega 31120	\$265	\$315
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12x8x32 SCSI HP SureStore HP9600SI	\$288	\$338
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52X IDE Acer CD652	\$42	\$67
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9.1GB 10,000rpm	07N3220	4mb	\$230
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36.4GB 7200rpm	07N3100	4mb	\$557
36.9GB 10,000rpm	07N3200	4mb	\$545

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9.2GB 7200rpm	ST39236LCV	4mb	\$230
9.2GB 10,033rpm	ST39204LW	4mb	\$244
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18.4GB 7200rpm	ST318436LW	2mb	\$329
18.4GB 7200rpm	ST318436LCV	4mb	\$334
18.4GB 10,033rpm	ST318404LW	4mb	\$339
18.4GB 15,000rpm	ST318451LW	4mb	\$458
36.7GB 10,033rpm	ST336704LW	4mb	\$585
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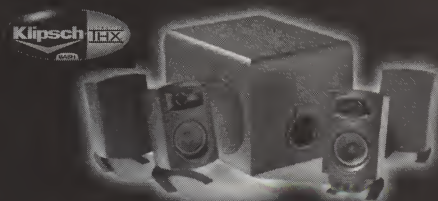
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Stylus color 880	2880 x 720 dpi, 9ppm C378001		\$145
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Viewsonic PF775	17"	1600 x 1200	-.25	\$339
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	BX2000+	\$125	
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- Sound Blaster Live-Value Sound Card
- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- 17" 1280x1024 .27 SVGA Monitor
- Altec Lansing ACS-33 Powercube 3-Speakers set with Subwoofer
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
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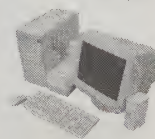


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AMD Athlon™ 1200MHz \$419

ASUS A7V \$148

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ATX Form Factor.



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AMD Athlon™ 900MHz \$329
AMD Athlon™ 1000MHz \$369
AMD Athlon™ 1200MHz \$419

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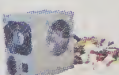
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400W	/	/	240/310
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C6215LPX SKT370	\$385	11.9x12.6x3	1/0	1/1	2PCI	2S, 1P, Floppy, USB, RJ-45, PS/2 Mouse, PS/2 Keyboard, VGA, Audio, Game, IR / PS
C6209LPX SKT370	\$350	11.8x12.5x3	1/0	1/1	2PCI, 1AMR, 1PTI	PS2, Speaker/LineIn/Mic, Game, USB, 1P1S, VGA, RJ45LAN, PS, S-IR, Volume, Network M
C5203LPX	\$310 Socket 7	12.4x14.5x3.4	1/0	1/1	2PCI	PS2 Kb&Ms, Speaker/LineIn, 1P2S, VGA, USB, RJ45LAN, Audio / PS
C9NLX	\$425	12.5x16.25x4	1/0	1/1	3PCI or 2PCI 1ISA	2S, 1P, Floppy, USB, RJ-45, PS/2 Mouse, PS/2 Keyboard, VGA, Audio, Game, IR / PS

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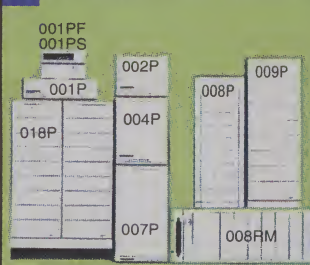
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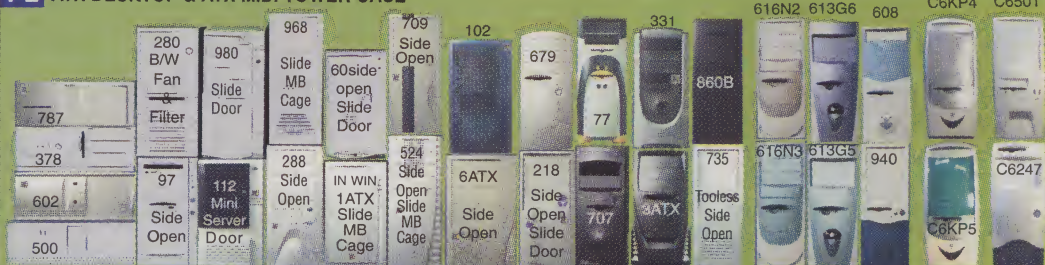
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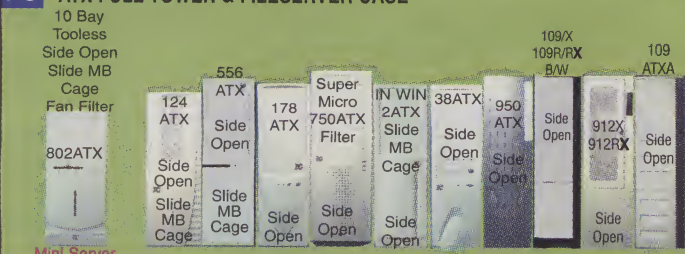
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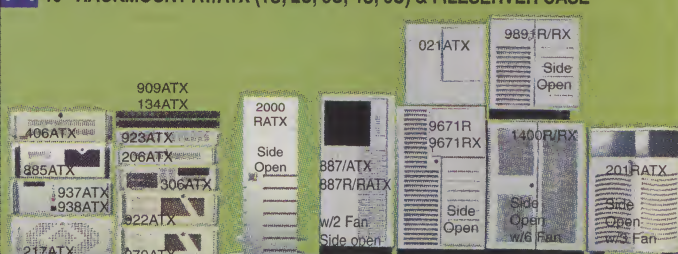
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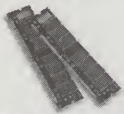
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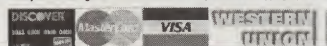
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doubling up

adding a second hard drive for backup

by jay munro

You hear it time and time again: "Did you have a backup?" And the answer is almost always no. If you've ever gotten a virus, wiped out entire directories of precious files, or installed a program that hosed your system, read on.

You can find nearly as many ways to back up hard drives as there are to mangle them. No one approach will be the best for every user, but the combination of a second hard drive and a disk-imaging utility is difficult to beat for speed, reliability, and convenience. Hard drives are faster than most removable-media options, and their ever-growing capacities and shrinking price tags are ideal if you're looking for lots of backup storage at a low price. Disk-imaging utilities let you create a "snapshot" of your hard drive that is an exact copy. If your main drive crashes or becomes corrupted, you can quickly and easily restore the image back to the drive—no Windows required. The leading disk-image software packages are Symantec's Ghost utilities and PowerQuest's Drive Image. We chose Norton Ghost 2001 (previously Ghost Personal Edition) for our project.

You'll need to determine up front whether you want your new drive installed as the primary drive or as the backup. Chances are your new drive will boast higher capacity and better performance than your existing drive, which leaves you with something of a dilemma: You'd likely get a boost in performance by installing the new drive as your primary drive, but it probably makes sense for the larger drive to hold your backups, partly so that you can save

multiple backup images. We decided to install our new drive, a 30GB, 7,200-rpm Maxtor DiamondMax model, as the second drive. If you opt for the other approach—installing your new addition as the primary drive—see the sidebar "Trading Places."

step 1 PREPARE YOUR SYSTEM FOR HARDWARE INSTALLATION.

Before you start, gather a 3.5-inch diskette, a pair of tweezers, and a Phillips screwdriver. A small flashlight will also help. Then create a Windows startup disk (you'll need this later) by opening the Add/Remove applet in the Control Panel and selecting Startup Disk. When the process is complete, shut down your system, unplug the power cord, and remove the cover. Before you touch any components, be sure to ground yourself by touching the metal chassis of the system.

tip Buying your new hard drive in a complete kit—



Opt for the full retail version of a drive if you're not sure what mounting hardware you'll need.

often referred to as “retail packaging”—helps ensure you’ll have everything you may need.

step 2 DETERMINE WHAT POSITION YOUR NEW DRIVE WILL OCCUPY. Your system’s motherboard should have 40-pin connectors for two IDE ribbon cables: one for the primary IDE channel, and one for the secondary. Each of the two channels can support two IDE (also referred to as ATA) devices: one in the master position, and one



Most systems today connect the primary hard drive and the optical drive to the primary IDE channel.

in the slave. Chances are your new drive will install on the secondary IDE channel, because systems today typically use the primary channel to connect both the primary hard drive and the CD-ROM or other optical drive. If your system uses this

arrangement, then your new hard drive should install on the secondary IDE channel, and it will be the master for that controller.



step 3 SET THE DRIVE-CONFIGURATION JUMPERS. Set the configuration jumpers on the back of the drive to the appropriate position—master or slave—using tweezers if necessary. If the drive will be sharing an IDE channel with another drive, make sure to configure the other drive accordingly, too. Most drive manufacturers now illustrate jumper settings on their drives. **tip** Some drives use different jumper positions when they are the only drive on the channel than when acting as master with a slave. Check your drive’s documentation.



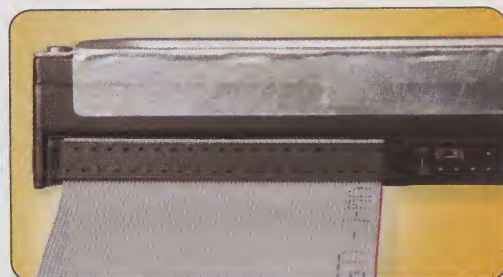
Use tweezers if necessary to set your new drive as master or slave.

Trading Places

Instead of installing your new drive as your backup device, you can install it in place of your existing drive, as drive C:, and demote your current drive to backup duty. For help in pulling this off, look to the disk utilities included with your hard drive, or available from the drive maker’s Web site. Most such utilities automate the process of moving data from the old drive to the new. Of course, you can also use Ghost to copy the data. Simply boot from your startup disk, then run Ghost from its installation CD. Select Disk to Disk, and use D: as the source drive and C: as the destination.

step 4 ATTACH THE RIBBON CABLE TO THE DRIVE.

Installing the ribbon cable can be difficult after the drive is mounted, so attach the cable to the connector on the back of the hard drive beforehand. If your new hard drive came with an Ultra DMA/66 (also called ATA/66) ribbon cable, which usually has a blue connector on one end and a black connector on the other, it’s a good idea to use it. (The drive won’t deliver



Connect the ribbon cable to the drive.

data at Ultra DMA/66 rates unless your system specifically supports it.) Even with an Ultra DMA/66 drive, you can also use an ordinary 40-conductor ATA/33 ribbon cable. Either way, the connector for the master drive is on the end closest to the center connector (which is used for the secondary drive). The system connector is on the other end, farthest from the center connector.

Most drive ribbon cables are keyed, to ensure they can be connected to the drive only in the correct orientation. If your cable isn’t keyed, look for the red or blue stripe on one edge of the ribbon cable. This colored edge should install on the same side as pin number 1 of the drive’s 40-pin connector. Look for a “1” or “2” printed on the circuit board next to the connector.

step 5 MOUNT THE HARD DRIVE IN THE BAY.

Install the hard drive by carefully sliding it into the drive bay you’ve selected, after attaching 5.25-inch drive brackets if necessary. The drive should have come with four screws, which fix the drive in its bay. If the drive came without the screws, be careful not to use screws that are too long, which could damage the drive if you force them in too far.

tip When deciding where the drive will go, don’t forget to factor in ventilation. Ribbon cables can constrain airflow greatly, depending on their location.

step 6 FINISH CONNECTING THE CABLES.

With the hard drive securely mounted, connect the ribbon cable to the appropriate IDE connector on the motherboard—in our case, the secondary IDE channel. Then find an available power connector and plug it into the back of the new hard drive. The power connector will fit on the four pins only one way, but be prepared to push with some force—this connector is a tight fit.

tip If your system has no free power leads, buy an inexpensive Y-cable adapter to give you a free connector.



The power lead fits tightly on the drive’s four-pin connector.

Online Finds

Adding a second hard drive will probably go off without a hitch, but you may run into problems if your system is more than a few years old. The drive maker itself is often the best source of information for solving problems, and that's certainly the place to look if you need to know the right jumper settings for a drive, old or new, or need to download drive utilities. The usual players are IBM (www.storage.ibm.com), Maxtor Corp. (www.maxtor.com), Seagate Technology (www.seagate.com), and Western Digital Corp. (www.wdc.com).

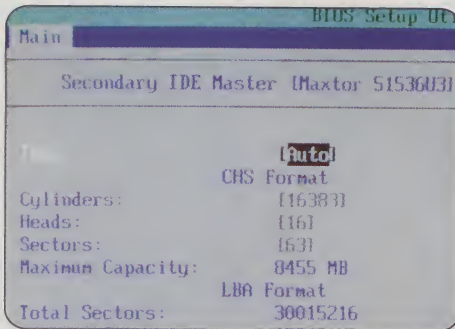
If your BIOS is unable to recognize your new drive and the drive utilities don't help, you may need a BIOS upgrade. Check with your system's vendor first. If you get no satisfaction there, try American Megatrends (www.ami.com) if you have an AMI BIOS, or Phoenix Technologies (www.phoenix.com) if your system uses an Award or Phoenix BIOS. Unicore (www.unicore.com) sells upgrades for systems using just about any BIOS.

step 7 BOOT THE SYSTEM.

Check the other hard drive, the floppy drive, and the CD-ROM drive to ensure that other cables did not get disturbed during installation. Then put the cover back on the case, insert the startup disk in drive A:, and turn on the power.

Enter your system's CMOS setup routine, as described in your system's documentation. To have the BIOS automatically detect the new drive and set its parameters, ensure that the drive type is entered as "Auto."

With the startup disk still in the A: drive, save the settings and exit the setup routine, allowing the system to boot.



Make sure your BIOS is set to recognize your new hard drive automatically.

step 8 PARTITION THE DRIVE.

Before you can use your new drive, it must be partitioned and formatted. At the A:\> prompt, after booting with your startup disk, type **FDISK** and press Enter. Answer "Yes" when asked if you want to enable large-disk support. On the following screen, choose option 5, "Change current fixed disk drive." Then change current disk to 2, your new hard drive.

On the next menu, choose option 1, "Create DOS partition or Logical DOS Drive." Next, select option 1, "Create primary DOS partition." FDISK will ask if you want to use the maximum size for the DOS partition; enter "Yes" to use the whole drive. When FDISK has

finished, press Esc until you get back to the A:\> prompt, then restart your machine.

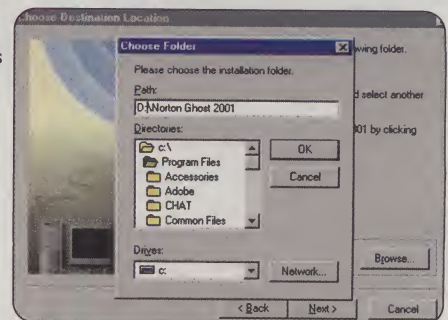
tip Most hard drives come with disk utilities—on diskette or for free download—that make it quick and easy to partition and format your new drive. Such utilities can also coax an outdated BIOS into recognizing the full format of a drive. To use such utilities, put the diskette in drive A: and reboot.

step 9 FORMAT THE DRIVE.

Assuming you have only one partition on your primary hard drive (drive C:), your new drive should be designated as the D: drive. At the A:\> prompt, type **format d: /u** and press Enter. If you have a large drive, like our 30GB model, formatting can take a while. The format routine then asks for a volume label. Enter one if you like, then press Enter. Remove the floppy from drive A: and reboot.

step 10 INSTALL GHOST.

Insert the Ghost 2001 CD, and follow the instructions to install. The one change you should make is to install Ghost to drive D: rather than C:. This ensures that you can still get to your copy of Ghost even if something goes wrong with your C: drive.



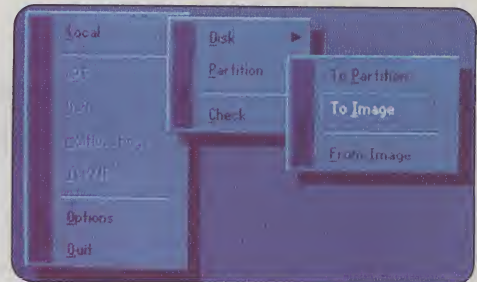
Install Ghost to your new, second hard drive instead of to the C: drive.

step 11 CREATE A GHOST IMAGE.

Ghost runs from a DOS prompt when creating or restoring disk images. With Windows 95 and 98, you can reboot to a DOS prompt. With Windows Me, you need to use your startup disk or run the Norton Ghost Boot Wizard.

At the A:\> prompt, change to drive D: (or the appropriate designation for your new drive), type **CD \Norton~1**, and hit Enter. Start Norton Ghost 2001 from the command line by typing **ghostpe** and pressing Enter. From the Ghost main menu, select Local, then Partition, then To Image. Then select the source disk—in our case, disk 1—and press Enter. Next, select the partition from disk 1 to make the image—again, partition 1. When asked, give the image file a name. Then you'll need to specify whether or not compression should be used. Compression will shrink image file size somewhat but will slow the process considerably.

tip Ghost Explorer allows you to restore individual files or directories from an image backup. To restore entire partitions or drives, start the program from the DOS prompt. ▼



Choose Local, Partition, and then To Image to begin saving an image of your primary hard drive.

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ALFRED POOR'S

ALFRED POOR

computer cures

COM-PORT COMMOTION

Dear Alfred:

I've been trying to set up an older computer for my mom to use for Internet access, but I'm having problems. I replaced an ISA network adapter card with a modem card, but Windows is reporting a conflict. Device Manager shows exclamation marks in front of the COM2 and COM3 ports, and when we try to dial with the modem, we get an error message saying that another device is already using them. How can I fix this?

Laura Taylor

It sounds as though your computer has two serial (COM) ports already installed, and the modem is conflicting with them. A standard PC can address up to four serial ports, but the ports typically share interrupt channels (IRQs). COM1 and COM3 are typically assigned to IRQ4, and COM2 and COM4 are assigned to IRQ3.

If you want to determine how your IRQs are assigned, right-click on My Computer, then choose Properties. Tap the Device Manager tab, then select the Computer heading at the top. Choose Properties, and you'll find a View Resources tab that lets you see the assigned IRQs (and DMA channels, and other resources) in use by your system.

The most likely scenario is that your ISA modem is configured as COM1 or COM3 and is conflicting with the COM1 built into the motherboard. You could disable the motherboard ports, which may require changing CMOS settings, or moving jumpers on the motherboard, or both. I'd recommend a different route. Consider getting an external modem that you can attach to the computer's serial port. This makes it easier to monitor and eliminates a source of potential conflict. Plus, if you need to replace the modem or move it to another system, you don't have to open the case to make the switch.

CLICK TORTURE

Dear Alfred:

I keep getting an extremely annoying clicking sound every time I click on a link in Internet Explorer 5. I'm unaware of having

changed any settings, and I can't find any apparent

option to disable this nuisance.

Mike Collard

That sound can be grating! Choose Start, Settings, then Control Panel. In the window, select the Sounds applet. Scroll down the Events list to the Windows Explorer section, and under Start Navigation, you'll probably find that START.WAV has been assigned. Use the pull-down menu to highlight "None," and click OK. This should silence all that clicking.

A REFRESHING VIEW

Dear Alfred:

My new monitor supports up to a 90Hz refresh rate at a resolution of 1,024x768. Will it

make any difference if I run my display at a lower refresh rate as opposed to the maximum? Are there any advantages or disadvantages to doing either?

Ron Joiner

I can think of one good reason not to run your monitor at its maximum refresh rate. There comes a point, just shy of the maximum refresh speed, at which a monitor can't turn its electron beams on and off fast enough. If you try to go faster than that, the beams won't be able to turn all the way on before it's time to start turning off again, resulting in a muddy picture that may look out of focus.

Increasing the refresh rate is a good way to reduce perceived flicker in your monitor's image. Flicker, however, is more of a problem with larger displays, because your peripheral vision is more sensitive to motion. I recommend that you set the refresh rate low, such as 65Hz or 70Hz, and if you notice flicker, increase the refresh rate only until you reach a speed at which the flicker goes away. ▼

tip of the month

LOUD AND CLEAR

Let's face it: Component-supply contracts for computers and their parts sometimes go to the lowest bidder, and in some cases the quality of parts may leave something to be desired. This problem can extend to some of the easily overlooked pieces of your PC, such as the jacks on your sound card. But with a little ingenuity, you can work around some of these shortcomings.

Dear Alfred,

When I tried to use my microphone for voice recognition, loud static made it impossible. I traced the problem to the microphone connector on my sound card, and I used a small cable tie to grip the microphone lead. Then I secured the cable tie under a convenient screw on the case, creating a strain relief. Any strong string such as dental floss should serve the same purpose as the cable tie.

Jim McDonnell

That's a clever and simple solution. If the contacts inside the jack don't press hard enough against the plug, it also may be possi-



ble to bend them slightly more toward the center of the hole. Dirt or oxidation also may prevent a solid electrical contact, so cleaning the plug and jack may help eliminate static, too. In addition, I've found that the molded plugs used for microphone and speaker jacks can fail naturally, especially if the wire is pulled often. If wiggling the wire near the plug causes static, consider replacing the plug.

Send us your favorite tip, and you could receive a tipster's prize package, including a coveted "Computer Cures" T-shirt (one size fits all) plus some other secret and exciting items that you can't get anywhere else!

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ILLUSTRATION BY MATT FOSTER

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 226

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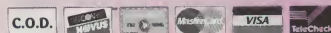
*Business Lease as low as \$85.00

Dual Processor Capable
Slim 1U 19" Rack optimized Server
128MB 133MHz SDRAM Memory
60.4GB IDE Hard Drive
Integrated 2 10/100 NIC Cards
24X Max EIDE CD-ROM, 3.5" Floppy Drive
104-key PS/2 Keyboard & PS/2 Mouse
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UPGRADE OPTIONS

USB Digital Video Camera	35
Iomega 100MB ZIP Drive Int. IDE	49
Iomega 250MB ZIP Drive Int. IDE	85
3COM 32-bit 10/100 Network Card	59
36-bit Color FlatBed USB Scanner	69
MS Office2000 Small Business Edition ...	175
MS Office2000 Professional Edition	299
MS Home Productivity Bundle	45

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*Terminus 7705-PRO

2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
256MB 133MHz SDRAM Memory
61.4GB Ultra66 IDE Hard Drive
64MB nVIDIA GeForce-II PRO
AGP Graphics Card
16X IDE DVD-ROM Drive
3.5" Floppy Drive
USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value
Deluxe ATX Tower Case
Altec Lansing ACS-54 sound system
19" .26 N.I. Digital Monitor



Intel®Pentium-III™

800MHz \$1629
866MHz \$1689
933MHz \$1799

*Business Lease as low as \$84.00

1GHz
\$1929

*Terminus 7732MX

2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
128MB 133MHz SDRAM Memory
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32MB nVIDIA GeForce-II MX
AGP Graphics Card
12X IDE DVD-ROM Drive, 3.5" Floppy Drive
56K PCI v.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
Creative Labs Sound Blaster 128 PCI
Deluxe ATX Tower Case
Altec Lansing ACS-33 sound system
17" .27 N.I. Digital Monitor



Intel®Pentium-III™

800MHz \$1119
866MHz \$1179
933MHz \$1289

*Business Lease as low as \$69.00

1GHz
\$1419

*Caledon 3412CP

128KB Internal L2 cache
2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
64MB 100MHz SDRAM Memory
30.4GB Ultra66 IDE Hard Drive
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16MB nVIDIA TNT-2 2X AGP Graphics Card
3.5" Floppy Drive
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56K PCI v.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
Deluxe Micro ATX Tower Case
Stereo Microphone and 240W speakers
15" .28 N.I. Digital Monitor



Intel®Celeron™

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733MHz \$859

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766MHz
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*Regata 7612MP

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128MB 133MHz SDRAM Memory
40.9 GB Ultra100 IDE Hard Drive
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AGP Graphics Card
16X IDE DVD-ROM Drive
3.5" Floppy Drive
USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live! Value
Deluxe ATX Tower Case
Altec Lansing ACS-54 sound system
19" .26 N.I. Digital Monitor



AMD Athlon K-7 w/3DNOW Technology

850MHz \$1249
900MHz \$1269
950MHz \$1289
1GHz \$1309
1.1GHz \$1359

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1.2GHz
\$1399

*Regata 7712MP

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64MB 133MHz SDRAM Memory
30.4 GB Ultra66 IDE Hard Drive
32MB nVIDIA TNT-2 2x AGP Graphics Card
12X IDE DVD-ROM Drive, 3.5" Floppy Drive
56K PCI v.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
Creative Labs Sound Blaster 128 PCI
Deluxe ATX Tower Case
Altec Lansing ACS-33 sound system
17" .27 N.I. Digital Monitor



AMD Athlon K-7 w/3DNOW Technology

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900MHz \$1019
950MHz \$1049
1.1GHz \$1129

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1GHz
\$1079

*Caledon 7810MP

2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports
64MB 100MHz SDRAM Memory
20.4GB Ultra66 IDE Hard Drive
16MB nVIDIA TNT-2 2X AGP Graphics Card
52X Max IDE CD-ROM Drive
3.5" Floppy Drive
PCI 3D wavetable Stereo Sound
56K PCI v.90 Fax/Modem w/Voice
Stereo Microphone and 240W Speakers
Deluxe Micro ATX Tower Case
15" .28 N.I. Digital Monitor



AMD Duron K-7 w/3DNOW Technology

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800MHz \$779

*Business Lease as low as \$40.00

850MHz
\$799

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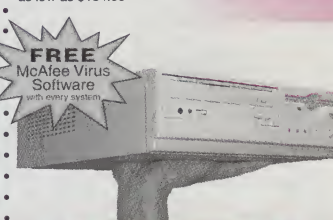
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- NEW! 1.4GHz Intel® Pentium-4 processor
- Intel® 850 chipset w/400MHz FSB
- 256MB RDRAM (Rambus) Memory
- 40GB Ultra100 IDE 7200RPM Hard Drive
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- AGP Graphics Card
- 16X IDE DVD-ROM Drive,
- 3.5" Floppy Drive
- USR v.90 56K PCI WinModem
- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live 5.1
- Deluxe ATX Tower Case 300W P.S.
- Altec Lansing ACS-54 sound system
- 19" .26 N.I. Digital Monitor

Intel®Pentium-4™

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1.4GHz
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NetCraft II

700MHz

Intel®Celeron™processor

\$629

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800MHz Intel® Pentium III	749
850MHz Intel® Pentium III	799

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- 3.5" Floppy Drive
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AMD K7™ Motherboards

GA-7DXC
 128MB DDR Memory included
\$399
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • 2DDR DIMMs of 184-pin sockets
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 • (1) AGP, (5) PCI, (1) AMR slots
 • ATX Size: 9.2" x 12.7" **1.2GHz \$709**


AMD K7 Duron™
 700/750/800/850MHz 479/489/509/529
New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850/900/950MHz 539/559/579/599
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 619/669

A7V
ASUS® **\$155**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • (1) AGP, (4) PCI slots
 • ATX Size: 9.6" x 12.0" **1.2GHz \$459**


AMD K7 Duron™
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New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
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 900/950MHz 329/349
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 369/409

GA-7ZXR
 **\$169**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • Built-in U1000 IDE RAID Controller
 • Built-in Creative PCI Sound
 • (1) AGP, (5) PCI, (1) AMR, (1) ISA slots
 • ATX Size: 9.6" x 12.0" **1.2GHz \$469**


AMD K7 Duron™
 700/750/800/850MHz 239/249/259/289
New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850/900/950MHz 299/319/339/359
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 379/429

KT7 RAID
 **\$169**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • Built-in U1000 IDE RAID Controller
 • (1) AGP, (6) PCI, (1) ISA slots
 • ATX Size: 9.6" x 12.0" **1.2GHz \$469**


AMD K7 Duron™
 700/750/800/850MHz 239/249/259/289
New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850/900/950MHz 299/319/339/359
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 379/429

GA-7ZX
 **\$125**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • Built-in Creative PCI Sound
 • (1) AGP, (5) PCI, (1) AMR, (1) ISA slots
 • ATX Size: 9.6" x 12.0" **1.2GHz \$419**


AMD K7 Duron™
 700/750MHz 189/209
 800/850MHz 219/249
New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850MHz 229/249
 900/950MHz 269/289
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 339/389

KT7
 **\$155**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • (1) AGP, (6) PCI, (1) ISA slots
 • ATX Size: 9.6" x 12.0" **1.2GHz \$439**

AMD K7 Duron™
 700/750/800/850MHz 219/229/239/269
New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850MHz 279/299
 900/950MHz 319/339
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 359/409

GA-7ZM
 **\$99**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • (1) AGP, (3) PCI, (1) AMR slots
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AMD K7 Duron™
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New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850MHz 229/249
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 1GHz / 1.1GHz 309/359

AZ-11
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 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • Built-in PCI Sound
 • (1) AGP, (5) PCI slots
 • ATX Size: 9.6" x 12.0" **1.2GHz \$389**

AMD K7 Duron™
 700/750/800/850MHz 169/179/189/219
New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850/900/950MHz 229/249/269/289
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 309/359

S2390 TRINITY
TYAN **\$115**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • (1) AGP, (5) PCI, (1) ISA slots
 • ATX Size: 8.2" x 12.0" **1.2GHz \$409**

AMD K7 Duron™
 700/750MHz 189/199
 800/850MHz 209/239
New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
 800/850MHz 249/269
 900/950MHz 289/309
 1GHz / 1.1GHz 329/379

K7V-ZA
 **\$89**
 • Support Single AMD Socket A processor
 • Built-in PCI Sound
 • (1) AGP, (6) PCI, (1) ISA slots
 • ATX Form Factor **1.2GHz \$379**

AMD K7 Duron™
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New AMD K7 Thunderbird™
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2507-D TIGER 230
TYAN **\$155**
 • VIA Apollo Pro 133A Chipset
 • SUPPORT DUAL FCPGA Socket
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (4) 168-pin DIMM sockets
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Intel® Pentium® III Processor
 800/866/933MHz 379/429/549
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III 133FSB CPUs
 (2) 800/866/933MHz 589/699/929
 DUAL 1GHz 1199

D815EEAA
intel. **\$129**
 • New Intel® i815 "Solano" Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single FCPGA CPU
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: **1GHz \$659**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800/866MHz 349/399
 933MHz 519
Intel® Celeron® Processor with 128K Cache
 700/733/766MHz 239/269/329



D850GB
intel. **\$255**
 • Intel® i850 Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single Socket 423 CPU
 • (4) 184-pin RIMM (Rambus) Sockets
 • ATX Format:

Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor
 1.4GHz 949
 1.5GHz 1189

GA-8TX
 **\$299**
 • Intel® i850 Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single Socket 423 CPU
 • Built-in Creative PCI Sound
 • (4) 184-pin RIMM (Rambus) Sockets
 • ATX Format: 12" x 9.6"

Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor
 1.4GHz 999
 1.5GHz 1229

1834-D TIGER
TYAN **\$149**
 • VIA Apollo Pro 133A Chipset
 • SUPPORT DUAL Slot 1
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (4) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: 12.0" x 8.2" **1GHz \$689**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
 800/866/933MHz 379/429/549
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III 133FSB CPUs
 (2) 800/866/933MHz 589/699/929
 DUAL 1GHz 1199

CUSL2
ASUS® **\$149**
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 • SUPPORT Single FCPGA CPU
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: 12.0" x 8.2" **1GHz \$689**

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 800/866MHz 379/429
 933MHz 549
Intel® Celeron® Processor with 128K Cache
 700/733/766MHz 259/289/359


P6DBE
SUPERMICRO® **\$169**
 • Intel® 440BX Chipset (enabling AGP)

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
 750/800/850MHz 379/399/449
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III CPUs
 (2) 750/800/850MHz 579/619/719


P6DGE
SUPERMICRO® **\$225**
 • Intel® 440GX Chipset (enabling AGP)
 • SUPPORT 100MHz PC SDRAM memory
 • ATX size

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
 750/800/850MHz 439/459/509
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III CPUs
 (2) 750MHz 639
 (2) 800MHz 669
 (2) 850MHz 779

Pentium® III XEON Motherboards
SUPERMICRO® **\$309**
S2DGE XEON
 550MHz Intel Pentium® III XEON w/512K 1289
 700MHz Intel Pentium® III XEON w/1MB 1569
 550MHz DUAL Pentium® III XEON w/512K 2259
 700MHz DUAL Pentium® III XEON w/1MB 2829

VP6
 **\$179**
 • SUPPORT DUAL FCPGA Socket
 • Built-in U1000 IDE RAID Controller
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (4) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: **1GHz \$709**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
 800/866/933MHz 399/459/579
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III 133FSB CPUs
 (2) 800/866/933MHz 609/729/959
 DUAL 1GHz 1129

SE6
 **\$139**
 • New Intel® i815 "Solano" Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single FCPGA CPU
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: **1GHz \$669**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800/866MHz 359/419
 933MHz 539
Intel® Celeron® Processor with 128K Cache
 700/733/766MHz 249/289/349

P6DBU
SUPERMICRO® **\$399**
 • Intel® 440BX Chipset (enabling AGP)

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
 750/800/850MHz 629/639/689
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III CPUs
 (2) 750/800/850MHz 829/869/969

P6DGU
SUPERMICRO® **\$435**
 • Intel® 440GX Chipset (enabling AGP)
 • Adaptec 7890 Ultra-2 Wide SCSI on-board controller 80MB/s transfer rate
 • SUPPORT 100MHz PC SDRAM memory
 • ATX size

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
 750/800/850MHz 649/669/719
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III CPUs
 (2) 750/800/850MHz 849/889/989

1854-S TRINITY
TYAN **\$97**
 • VIA Apollo Pro 133A Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single Slot 1/Socket 370 CPU
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • ATX Form Factor: 12.0" x 8.3" **1GHz \$629**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800/866/933MHz 319/379
 933MHz 489
Intel® Celeron® Processor with 128K Cache
 700/733MHz 199/239
 766MHz 299

SA6R
 **\$169**
 • New Intel® i815 "Solano" Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single FCPGA CPU
 • Built-in U1000 IDE RAID Controller
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: **1GHz \$689**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800/866/933MHz 379/439/559
Intel® Celeron® Processor with 128K Cache
 700/733/766MHz 269/299/369

370DLE
SUPERMICRO® **\$335**
 • ServerWorks ServerSet-III LE Chipset
 • Support Dual Intel 370-pin FCPGA P3 CPU
 • 133/100MHz FSB
 • Intel 82559 Ethernet Controller
 • ATX size: 12.0" x 10.25"

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800MHz 529
 866MHz 589
 933MHz 699
 1GHz 839
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III 133FSB CPUs
 DUAL (2) 800MHz 739
 DUAL (2) 866MHz 859
 DUAL (2) 933MHz 1079
 DUAL (2) 1GHz 1359

370DL3
SUPERMICRO® **\$495**
 • ServerWorks ServerSet-III LE Chipset
 • Support Dual Intel 370-pin FCPGA P3 CPU
 • 133/100MHz FSB
 • Adaptec Ultra160 SCSI on-board
 • Intel 82559 Ethernet Controller
 • ATX size: 12.0" x 10.25"

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800MHz 729
 866MHz 779
 933MHz 899
 1GHz 1029
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III 133FSB CPUs
 DUAL (2) 800MHz 929
 DUAL (2) 866MHz 1039
 DUAL (2) 933MHz 1269
 DUAL (2) 1GHz 1559

CUV4X
ASUS® **\$120**
 • VIA 694x/694z Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single FCPGA CPU
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: 12.0" x 8.2" **1GHz \$649**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800/866/933MHz 339/399
 933MHz 509
Intel® Celeron® Processor with 128K Cache
 700/733/766MHz 229/259/319

370SSA
SUPERMICRO® **\$135**
 • New Intel® i815 "Solano" Chipset
 • SUPPORT Single FCPGA CPU
 • 133MHz FSB (Front System Bus)
 • (3) 168-pin DIMM sockets
 • ATX Form Factor: 9.6" x 7.8" **1GHz \$660**

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800/866MHz 349/399
 933MHz 519
Intel® Celeron® Processor with 128K Cache
 700/733/766MHz 239/279/339

370DL3
SUPERMICRO® **\$495**
 • ServerWorks ServerSet-III LE Chipset
 • Support Dual Intel 370-pin FCPGA P3 CPU
 • 133/100MHz FSB
 • Adaptec Ultra160 SCSI on-board
 • Intel 82559 Ethernet Controller
 • ATX size: 12.0" x 10.25"

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800MHz 729
 866MHz 779
 933MHz 899
 1GHz 1029
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III 133FSB CPUs
 DUAL (2) 800MHz 929
 DUAL (2) 866MHz 1039
 DUAL (2) 933MHz 1269
 DUAL (2) 1GHz 1559

370DL3
SUPERMICRO® **\$495**
 • ServerWorks ServerSet-III LE Chipset
 • Support Dual Intel 370-pin FCPGA P3 CPU
 • 133/100MHz FSB
 • Adaptec Ultra160 SCSI on-board
 • Intel 82559 Ethernet Controller
 • ATX size: 12.0" x 10.25"

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 133FSB
 800MHz 729
 866MHz 779
 933MHz 899
 1GHz 1029
SUPPORT DUAL PENTIUM-III 133FSB CPUs
 DUAL (2) 800MHz 929
 DUAL (2) 866MHz 1039
 DUAL (2) 933MHz 1269
 DUAL (2) 1GHz 1559

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Intel®Celeron PPGA s370 processor	
700MHz Intel®Celeron w/128K cache	99
733MHz Intel®Celeron w/128K cache	129
766MHz Intel®Celeron w/128K cache	189
Intel®Pentium™ III processor	
750MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache	219
800MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache	239
850MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache	279
Intel®Pentium™ III 133MHz FSB	
800MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache	229
866MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache	269
933MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache	379
1GHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache	499

Intel®Pentium-4	
1.4GHz/1.5GHz Pentium-4 processor	799/999

Intel®Pentium™ XEON processor	
550MHz Pentium™ III XEON w/512K cache	979
700MHz Pentium™ III XEON w/1MB cache	1199
733MHz Pentium™ III XEON w/256K cache	429
933MHz Pentium™ III XEON w/256K cache	599

AMD K7 with 3DNOW Technology	
Thunderbird K7™ 800/850MHz	139/149
Thunderbird K7™ 900/950MHz	169/189
Thunderbird K7™ 1 GHz	199
Thunderbird K7™ 1.1 GHz	259
Thunderbird K7™ 1.2 GHz	299

AMD Duron with 3DNOW Tech.	
Duron K7™ 700MHz	69
Duron K7™ 750MHz	89
Duron K7™ 800MHz	99
Duron K7™ 850MHz	129

HARD DRIVES

MAXTOR	
5400RPM - IDE Ultra 100 Drives	
20.4 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 9ms	109
30.7 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 9ms	119
40.9 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 9ms	149
61.4 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 9ms	209
81.4 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 7ms	279

7200RPM - IDE Ultra 100 Drives	
20.4 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 9ms	119
30.7 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 9ms	149
40.9 GB Ultra 100 3.5" 9ms	169

SEAGATE

Ultra 160 (LVD) SCSI Drives	
9.1 GB ST39236LW Barracuda XL 5.8ms 7200 RPM	219
18 GB ST318436LW Barracuda XL 5.8ms 7200 RPM	329
9.1 GB ST39204LW Cheetah XL 5.2ms 10K RPM	269
18 GB ST318404LW Cheetah XL 5.2ms 10K RPM	389
36 GB ST336704LW Cheetah XP 5.2ms 10K RPM	599
73 GB ST173404LW Cheetah-73 5.6ms 10K RPM	1079

15000RPM - Ultra 160 SCSI Drives	
18 GB ST318451LW Cheetah-X15 3.9ms 15K RPM	499

IBM

UltraStar 36LZX - Ultra 160 (LVD) SCSI Drives	
9.1 GB 07N3220 3.5", 4.9ms 10K RPM	249
18.2 GB 07N3210 3.5", 4.9ms 10K RPM	359
36.4 GB 07N3200 3.5", 4.9ms 10K RPM	589

NETWORKING

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64MB	64MB	64MB	64MB
32MB	32MB	32MB	32MB
16MB	16MB	16MB	16MB
8MB	8MB	8MB	8MB
4MB	4MB	4MB	4MB
2MB	2MB	2MB	2MB

SIZE	NON-ECC	ECC	Registered ECC
1GB	1GB	1GB	1GB
512MB	512MB	512MB	512MB
256MB	256MB	256MB	256MB
128MB	128MB	128MB	128MB
64MB	64MB	64MB	64MB
32MB	32MB	32MB	32MB

SIZE	NON-ECC	ECC	Registered ECC
1GB	1GB	1GB	1GB
512MB	512MB	512MB	512MB
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BUYING ADVISOR

by Asa Somers

BUYING
ADVISOR

Laser Sharp

Finding a laser printer that pumps out crisp, bold text—and has a reputation for reliability—is a challenge when relying on other users' opinions.

WE RECENTLY HELPED A New York photographer choose an affordable inkjet printer to produce vivid color proofs for prospective clients (December, p. 262). But for some people, color is beside the point—all they need is razor-sharp monochrome text. Take, for instance, Jim Laliberte, a manager from Sacramento, Calif., who's in the market for a personal laser printer that meets some pretty stringent demands.

"All I care about is the *best and blackest and clearest* text possible," says Laliberte, adding that he has a budget of \$400 or less. He recently purchased a **Lexmark Optra E312**, but found its text a bit thin and light. Before making his purchase, Laliberte did his homework, consulting magazine reviews and user-feedback sites.

The problem with user-feedback sites is that people love to complain. From what we've seen, no product is immune from getting slammed on sites such as *Deja.com* (www.deja.com) or our own *computershopper.com* (www.computershopper.com). So when shopping, it's best to take the stridently disparaging opinions (which means most of them) with a grain of salt, and instead look for patterns of discontent. Does, for instance, a printer receive repeated low marks for paper jams? Have multiple users expressed concern over expensive toner cartridges? These are the real issues.

For example, at one site we read this about the **Brother HL-1240**, an award-winning personal laser that can be had for about \$270 at Web seller *Computers4Sure.com* (www.computers4sure.com): "Normal print quality is unacceptable, and graphics reproductions are mediocre. Only on the 'best' quality setting is the print quality acceptable."

Pretty harsh. But then look at this comment on the same printer from the same site: "I'm running magazine proofs out on this printer, and I have to say that it has been a huge value to our company. Half the price of a comparable HP, this printer seems to perform just as well."

How do you reconcile the two opinions? First of all, we've seen sample output from the HL-1240, and it does look exceptional—although, indeed, "normal" print quality (300 dpi) is best for drafts. Furthermore, our own

CHALLENGE

USER PROFILE

Jim Laliberte, a California-based manager who needs a laser printer for letters and résumés

COMPUTING NEEDS

A personal laser printer priced below \$400 that delivers incredibly sharp, dark text output and has a good record of reliability

anecdotal research reveals users are generally satisfied with the printer's ease of operation, paper feeding, speed, and longevity.

Still, if you haven't seen sample output, how can you decide based on the two widely divergent opinions expressed above? It's impossible, unless you delve deeper and determine a pattern. In the scores of opinions we read, most users found the printer an exceptional bargain and great performer.

A few, however, complained that the Brother doesn't work particularly well with Macs. And at least one person noted that text didn't print out quite thick enough, a complaint

borne out in magazine reviews. Laliberte uses a 600MHz Dell Dimension, so OS compatibility wouldn't be a problem. Bold text, however, is a big issue for him, so we kept looking.

One printer that has always garnered

scores of excellent reviews, including awards in this magazine, is the **NEC SuperScript 870**, which we found for around \$250 (plus shipping) from *Buy.com* (www.buy.com). The 870's text and graphics output are both solidly praised, but even the positive user reviews complain of skewed paper feeding. Multiple negative reviews criticize the printer's photo conductor, which in some cases needed to be replaced. Though many magazine reviews rave about the 870, longer-term analysis points to possible problems in these areas.

Same thing goes for the award-winning **HP LaserJet 1100xi**, priced at \$364.95 plus shipping at *AllBusiness.com* (www.allbusiness.com). This printer wowed many with its great output and simple setup, but several buyers complained of paper jams.

We also checked out the **Okipage 10ex** from Oki Data, which you can find for \$379 at *Computers4Sure.com*. It's more expensive and uses digital LED technology, but even though it's technically not a laser printer, you won't be able to tell the difference. Its text printing gets rave reviews, its graphics less so. The unit is fast, but some users complain of increasingly frequent paper jams as the printer ages.

Based on user feedback and some hands-on experience, we settled on two finalists. The **Brother HL-1240** delivers excellent output and seems reliable, although text is a little thin in some cases. The **NEC SuperScript 870** delivers slightly better text output, but reliability issues might well up later on.

SOLUTION

THE ADVISOR'S CHOICE

Though the \$270 **Brother HL-1240** pumps out exceptional text, it generally prints a bit light, a shortcoming that would disqualify it for Laliberte's stringent needs. A better choice is the **NEC SuperScript 870**, which has repeatedly impressed critics with its outstanding text and graphics output. It's also most affordable at \$250 plus shipping, well below Laliberte's \$400 budget cap.

zDNet Price It! 3 4 1 3 1

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

Pricing for these two units is very close, so either should be a smart buy. In the end, we'd go with the **NEC SuperScript 870**, a model that we've reviewed and consistently found to be among the best in its class.

If you want help making a smart buying decision, e-mail the Buying Advisor at buying_advisor@zdnet.com.



NEC SuperScript 870

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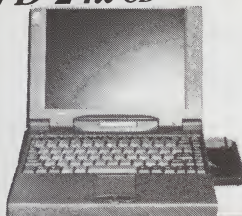
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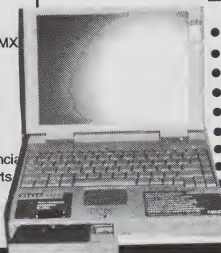
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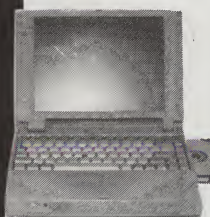
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- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
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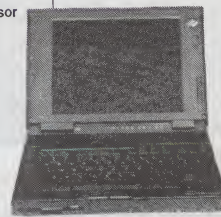
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- 16 bit sound
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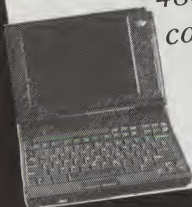
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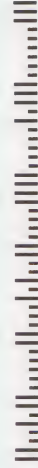
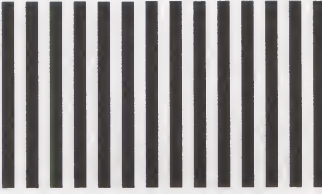
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- New 4x High Speed Floppy Drive

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Mavica FD-90



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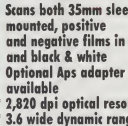
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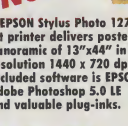
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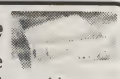
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30.0GB	128K	4500	QML30000LD	\$129
30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000AS	\$149
40.0GB	128K	4500	QML40000LD	\$149
40.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP40000AS	\$192
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36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700SCA	\$599
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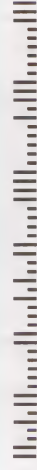
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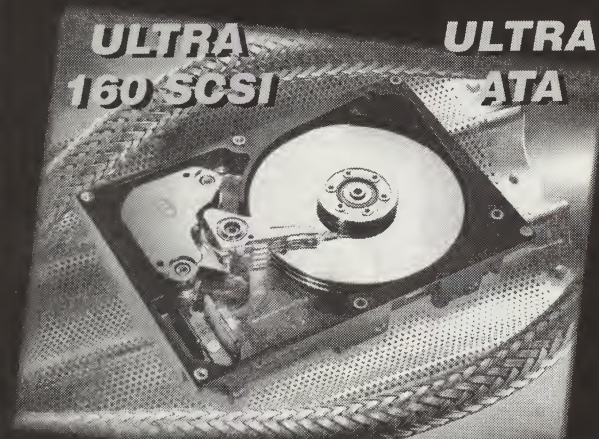
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50-100GB	AIT-2 Internal (SDX-500CI)	\$2979
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35GB AIT Media (SDX135C)	1-4/5/9/10-49/50+	\$85/\$83/\$81/\$79
50GB AIT Media (SDX250C)	1-4/5/9/10-49/50+	\$110/\$106/\$102/\$98

Quantum

Get a DLT4 tape for only \$65 when purchased with drive.

		<i>purchased with drive.</i>			
20-40Gig	DLT,180MB/min, DLT4000	\$1285	\$65 (DLT4)		
	External, our case, DLT4000X	\$1415	\$65 (DLT4)		
	External, Quantum case, DLT4000QX	\$1529	\$65 (DLT4)		
	40-80Gig	DLT, 600MB/min,DLT8000	\$3639	\$65 (DLT4)	
		External, our case, DLT8000X	\$3759	\$65 (DLT4)	
External, Quantum case, DLT8000QX		\$3969	\$65 (DLT4)		
DLT MEDIA SALE		1-4	5-9	10-49	50+
DLTIII 10-20GB (DLT3)		\$34	\$33	\$32	\$31
DLTIII XT 15-30GB (DLT3XT)		\$37	\$36	\$35	\$34
DLTIV 20-40GB (DLT4)		\$73	\$70	\$67	\$65
DLT Cleaning tape (DLTCLEAN)		\$39	\$37	\$35	\$33

Seagate

* Includes 1 FREE tape, cable, manual & Win/NTWS backup software

Minicartridge

ATAPI (IDE)	Int.	Ext.	Extra Tapes
-------------	------	------	-------------

TR4 4-8gig (STT28000A)	\$195	\$315	\$25 (TR4)
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TR5 10-20gig (STT220000A)	\$259	\$369	\$40 (TR5)
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SCSI	Int.	Ext.	Extra Tapes
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TR4 4-8gig (STT28000N)	\$219	\$279	\$25 (TR4)
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SCSI RCVT Includes NT & Network server software only. Features hardware data compression			
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TR4 4-8gig (STT28000NC)	\$369	\$429	\$25 (TR4)
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TR5 10-20gig (STT220000N)	\$469	\$529	\$40 (TR5)
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HEWLETT PACKARD

Minicartridge

Includes 1 FREE tape, manual, DOS/Win backup software

SCSI	Int.	Ext.	Extra Tapes
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TR5 10-20gig (C4394A)	\$369	\$429	\$40 (TR5)
-----------------------	-------	-------	------------

Exabyte

7-14Gig	8mm, 120MB/min, ELIANT820	\$1199 \$10 (DAT160MBMM)
20-40Gig	8mm, 360MB/min, EXB8900	\$1969 \$69 (AME170)
140-280Gig	8mm, 180MB/min, EZ175WK	\$4559 \$10 (DAT160MBMM)

HEWLETT PACKARD

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with HP DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2, 60MB/min, C1599AI	\$519 \$10 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C1554AI	\$695 \$20 (DAT125M)
72-144Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C5648A	\$1659 \$20 (DAT125M)

Seagate

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Seagate DAT!

2-4Gig	DAT-DC, 66MB/min, STD24000N	\$415 \$6 (DAT90M)
4Gig	Mini, 30MB/min, STT28000N	\$219 \$25 (TRA)
4-8Gig	Mini, 60MB/min, STT28000NC	\$369 \$25 (TRA)
4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STD28000N	\$519 \$10 (DAT120M)
10-20Gig	Mini, 100MB/min, STT2200BARE	\$279 \$40 (TRS)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 132MB/min, STD224000N	\$689 \$10 (DAT120M)
35-70Gig	AIT, 360MB/min, STA2701W	\$1795 \$105 (STAE70)
48-96Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STL496000N	\$1659 \$10 (DAT125M)

We have a variety of power backup solutions. Our customer service reps are glad to assist you. Call or visit our website under the "Power Backups" listing.

DRIVE CASES

DRIVE CASE:

SCSI TYPE:

	Ultra	UltraWide	Ultra 160
3.5" w/ closed, 1", & 1.6" open face plates	\$49 (3.5CASEC)	\$59 (3.5CASECW)	\$69* (3.5CASE160)
5.25" w/ closed, 1", 1.6", & CD face plates	\$49 (HHCASET)	\$59 (HHCASETW)	\$75* (HHCASET160)
Holds 2 half height or 1 full height drive.	\$69 (FHCASE)	\$95 (FHCASEW)	\$109* (FHCASE160)
Dual 3.5" drive model	\$69 (DUAL3.5CASE)	\$89 (DUAL3.5CASEW)	\$99* (DUAL3.5CASE160)
Takes two 3.5" drives	\$99 (DUALCASET)	\$129 (DUALCASETW)	\$139* (DUALCASE160)
Holds 4 half height or 2 full height drives.	\$175 (TOWERCASET)	\$219 (TOWERCASEW)	\$239* (TOWERCASE160)
Holds 8 half height or 4 full height drives.	\$385 (148BAYCASE)	\$479 (148BAYCASEFW)	\$495* (148BAYCASE160)
Holds 14 half height or 6 full height drives.	\$585 (188BAYCASE)	\$689 (188BAYCASEFW)	\$699* (188BAYCASE160)
Holds 18 half height or 8 full height drives.	\$619 (208BAYCASE)	\$739 (208BAYCASEFW)	\$755* (208BAYCASE160)
Holds 20 half height or 10 full height drives.			

* Also compatible with Ultra-2 SCSI

Parallel cases, PCMCIA IDE cases and redundant hot swappable power supplies are also available. Call us or shop our website for complete listings at: www.dirtcheapdrives.com/cases



Hot Port External IDE Case

The perfect way to turn any IDE drive into an external. Great for Hard drives, CD ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, tape, optical, DVD, or any other IDE drive. Includes IDE controller card, cable, and case. Power goes through the data cable so no awkward power cables. Perfect for sharing drives among multiple computers. TWICE as fast as an external parallel port case and cheaper than SCSI. (HOTPORT) \$129 (HOTCT) \$59



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BACKUP SOFTWARE

Seagate (formerly Veritas) (formerly Seagate) Backup Exec

Windows 95, 98 & NT workstation - Now supports NT Workstation (SBENWDWD)	\$65
Windows NT multi server (SBENTME)	\$859
Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	\$429
Network single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	\$409

NovaStor

NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2. Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	\$49
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000Server (29801)	\$115
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	\$295
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	\$395
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	\$639
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE (79310)	\$295
Single Server for NetWare 25 User (79320)	\$315
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User (79330)	\$395
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User (79340)	\$555
Unlimited for NetWare 1000 User (79350)	\$649

We now carry a large variety of software including: gaming software, multimedia software, business software & more! For the hottest deals, call us or shop our website at www.dirtcheapdrives.com

WE KNOW RAID

Dirt Cheap Drives can custom configure a RAID tower to meet your needs. Here are a few popular components. We stock many other RAID components. Check us out on the web or give us a call.

IDE RAID CASES

Incredible quality. Extremely well built. Just add up to 6 IDE drives of any capacity, and an Ultra Wide SCSI controller to your computer and you are ready for high performance, fault tolerant RAID. Features hot swap drive shuttles, 4 cooling fans, and redundant hot swap power supplies. Run as RAID 0 or 5. Supports all major operating systems.



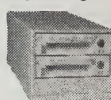
Tower Model

Tower Model Entry level IDE RAID Array (IDERAIDCASE) \$1829
Rack Mount Model Entry level IDE RAID Array (IDERAIDRACK) \$1979

Ask about our High End IDE RAID Arrays

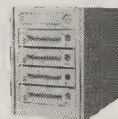
RAID SUITABLE ENCLOSURES

These hard drive enclosures are perfect for RAID or multiple drive applications. They feature hot swappable drive shuttles, and large cooling fans. These cases use a special backplane technology that allows you to use Wide SCSI, Ultra Wide SCSI, or Ultra-2 LVD hard drives without the normal cable length problems. Add drives and a DPT or Adaptec RAID controller for your complete high end RAID solution.



2 Drive Desktop Model (FHCASEUSW) \$589

Also available in SCA models
2- \$589
4- \$745



4 Drive Desktop Model (DUALCASEUSW) \$745



7 Drive Desktop Model (QUADCASEUSW) U,UW, W \$1229
(QUADCASEU7) SCA \$1259

8 Drive Desktop Model (QUADCASE8U2) U,UW, W \$1339
(QUADCASEU2) SCA \$1369
Available in black...just add \$20



7 Drive Desktop Model (RACKCASEUSW) U,UW, W \$1259
(RACKCASEU7) SCA \$1289

8 Drive Desktop Model (RACKCASE8U2) U,UW, W \$1369
(RACKCASEU2) SCA \$1399
Available in black...just add \$20

IDE RAID 1

IDE RAID has never been this easy. Simply install the bay mount RAID controller unit in a 3.5" drive bay, connect two same size IDE hard drives and bootup. The unit does the rest for you. Provides RAID 1 mirroring and features an audible alarm to alert you of drive failure. This is a great product. (ARDUPRAID) \$199
Same unit in 5.25" bay ready mount (ARDUPS.25) \$209

Axis Storpoint CD/DVD E100

SUPPORTS MACINTOSH!

E100 features the fastest way to share CDs or DVDs across a network. Works with most operating systems, including Netware, Windows 95, 98, NT, Macintosh, Unix or OS2. Hard Disk caching provides blistering fast access to stacks of CDs or DVDs. (AXISCSD/DVD) \$769



Hot swappable drive setup for SCA drives
• Quality metal construction & front cooling fan!
• Mount three 1" high SCA drives in a single 5 1/4" full height drive bay. (SCA3DR-LVD) \$259 or \$329 for Ext.

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Sat 9-3 CST

1-800-475-7476

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Have you been wondering if your data is secure while you're away from your desk or surfing the web? The solution is simple. Take your hard drive with you when you go.

No more security worries. No more files left behind. Just put your drive in a padded carrying case whenever you're away from your PC. Great for security, transportability, data interchange, RAID configurations, etc. With DataPort™, you can take it with you when you go.

Keep your data secure by turning any 3 1/2" drive into a removable.

DATAPOINT™ SYSTEM INCLUDES:

- 1. Frame** — Installs into your 3 1/2" drive bay &
- 2. Cartridge** — Holds your internal drive allowing it to slip in and out of the bay on the installed frame.

Note: Each family of modules are not compatible with other families.

DATAPOINT IV

SCSI ID switch, and gold plated connectors. Plastic construction with metal top and bottom covers on cartridge.

IDE SYSTEM — 1 frame, and 1 cartridge (TRANSIDE)	\$45
Extra IDE Frame (TRANSIDEFR)	\$27
Extra IDE Cartridge (TRANSIDECA)	\$21
SCSI SYSTEM — 1 frame, and 1 cartridge (TRANSSCSI)	\$51
Extra SCSI Frame (TRANSSCSIFR)	\$29
Extra SCSI Cartridge (TRANSSCSICA)	\$26

DATAPOINT V

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 w/plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	\$79	N/A
IDE 66 w/ metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	\$87	\$96
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UW)	\$105	\$114
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	\$42	N/A
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	\$50	\$60
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCART)	\$61	\$71
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	\$44	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	\$51	

DATAPOINT™ PADDED CARRYING CASE

Fits all removable cartridges. Great for safe transportation and storage once the cartridge is removed. Professional Aluminum Case (DPCASEM) **\$49**

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DATAPOINT VI

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm, SCSI ID switch. 7 segment ID display on front. Metal frame and metal cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	\$108	\$117
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UWM)	\$128	\$137
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	\$139	\$149

EXTRA CARTRIDGE

Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	\$61	\$71
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	\$75	\$85
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART)	\$88	\$98

EXTRA FRAME

Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAME)	\$54	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	\$61	
SCA (DPSCAFRAME)	\$63	

ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI

Cover plate to cover opening when cartridge is removed (DPFPLATE)	\$8	\$10
---	-----	------

DATAPOINT VII — CALL

High quality DataPort series made for 10,000rpm drives with dual cooling fans.

DATAPOINT VIII — CALL

High quality DataPort series made for 10,000rpm drives with dual cooling fans (one front, one rear). Gold plated connections. SCSI ID switch. LCD display shows time, drive temp, SCSI ID and voltage.

These DataPort™ systems are the best we have ever seen. We HIGHLY recommend using DataPorts™ to keep your data secure.

CONTROLLERS

Adaptec

	BARE	/KIT
A1505KIT	ISA 16 Bit SCSI (no hard drive support)	\$49
A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)	\$55
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI adapter	\$75
T1460D2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI	\$125
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI	\$169
AAA131U2	PCI RAID controller for Ultra-2	\$429
AAA133U2	PCI Ultra-2 RAID 3 channel	\$705
ARO1130U2	RAIDPORT II Ultra-2 RAID	\$275
A19160	Ultra 160 SCSI	\$155 \$225
A29160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit	\$209 \$299
A39160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit PCI, 2 channel	\$349
A29160N	Ultra 160 SCSI 32 bit PCI	\$279
A29160LP	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit MD2 low profile	\$219 \$299
APD29160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh	\$285
APD39160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh FAST!	\$399
AAAUDMAKIT	PCI 4 channel UDMA/66 RAID	\$379
The Adaptec RAID Lineup		
RAID2100S	Ultra 160 SCSI RAID w/32MB SDRAM	\$439
RAID3200S	As 2100S with 2 channels, 64 bit	\$729
RAID3400S	As 2100S with 4 channels, 64 bit	\$979
ABM100KIT	Battery backed module for 3000S series RAID controllers	\$229
AMM232KIT	32MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers	\$165
AMM264KIT	64MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers	\$279

AIOPICO COMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC.

- Hardware RAID 1 (mirroring) works with most operating systems.
- Jumperless design, 100% data redundancy, 4 drive support
- Works off of existing IDE controller

ISA (ARDUPLDISK) \$189 PCI (ARDUPLPCI) \$179

Tekram

We are really impressed with these controllers. High quality at a very hot price. check them out!

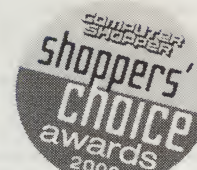
DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	\$25
DC395U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	\$49
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	\$79
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	\$135
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	\$155
DC390U3W	1 Ultra 160 Channel & 1 Ultra Wide channel kit	\$199

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC.

ULTRA66	PCI, Supports Ultra-66 IDE drives	\$27
ULTRA100	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-100 drives	\$49
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	\$65
FASTTRAK100	PCI, SUPPORTS ULTRA ATA-100 RAID 0+1	\$95

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USB STUFF

4x4x6 CD-RW — PC or Mac (CRX100E/X2) \$299

Master CD with this complete kit. Includes mastering software & drive in high quality external USB case.

100MB Zip Drive (ZIP100USB) \$95

Iomega USB 100MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

250MB Zip (ZIP250USB) \$169

Iomega USB 250MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

2.2GB Orb (ORBUSB) \$189

Revolutionary removable media storage by Castlewood Systems holds 2.2GB of uncompressed storage capacity. Includes a 2.2GB cartridge.

USB to SCSI (or SCSI-2) Adapter (USBSCSI) \$65

Adapter allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port.

SuperDisk Drive 120MB/Floppy (USBL5120) \$149

Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks.

1394 USB/PCI BOARD (70HTL00060) \$125

2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals.

Floppy Drive (USBFLOPPY) \$85

USB for iMac. Read/write Mac & PC formats. iMac blue case.

10GB, 15GB, 20GB, 30GB Hard Drive

(USB10/15/20/30GB) \$179/\$189/\$205/\$219

10GB USB external hard drive with built-in fan and USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

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Socket 370 & Slot 1 Available. Talk to our customer service reps today about these configurations.

PENTIUM III PROCESSORS

700MHz, 256KB, 100FSB FC-PGA	526F700256E	\$229
700MHz, 256KB, 100FSB S.E.C.C.2	526U700256E	\$255
800MHz, 256KB, 100FSB FC-PGA	526F800256E	\$299
800MHz, 256KB, 100FSB S.E.C.C.2	526H800256E	\$249
800MHz, 256KB, 133FSB FC-PGA	526C800256E	\$249
933MHz, 256KB, 133FSB-PGA	526C933256E	\$595
933MHz, 256KB, 133FSB S.E.C.C.2	526U933256E	\$429

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Back-UPS Office85	Smart-UPS RM 120V
Back-UPS Pro 120V	Smart-UPS RM 208V
Back-UPS Pro 230V	Smart-UPS RM 120, 208V
Back-UPS Pro USB	Symmetra RM 120, 208V
Symmetra RM 208V	Symmetra Power Array 120, 208, 240V
Smart-UPS 120V	We do custom configurations. CALL!

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DVD Drives and Complete Kits



- 16X DVD reader, 95ms
- 40X CD ROM, 80ms
- Bare IDE Drive tray load (Also avail as slot load) (DVD115) \$105
- 16X DVD reader, 95ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
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- 10X DVD reader, 120ms • 40X CD ROM, 90ms
- Bare SCSI Drive slot load (DVD304) \$139
- DVD Recorder, DVD-R write 1x, DVD-R read 2x, 4MB buffer, Inc. write, DVD software + 3 DVD disks (DVR5201) **\$3989**

Dirt Cheap Drive Kit

- 16X kit complete with MPEG-2 decoder
- 16X DVD reader, 95ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
- IDE interface • Supports CDR and CD-RW media
- Complete Kit (DVD16KIT) **\$175**

Creative DVD Kit

- Encore DVD 12X kit includes:
- 130ms 12X DVD drive
- Reads CDs at 40X, 110ms
- MPEG-2 decoder
- DVD Titles (CLDVD12KIT) **\$149**

TOSHIBA

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- Bare IDE Drive (SDM1502) **\$109**
- 10X DVD reader, 105ms • 40X CD ROM, 85ms
- Bare SCSI Drive (SDM1401) **\$149**

ACER

- 16X DVD reader, 90ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
- Complete Kit (DVP1640A) **\$145**

IDE CDR & DVD-ROM in ONE!

Toshiba

- 4X, 4X Rewrite CD-RW, 4X DVD Read, 24X CD Read
- Complete Drive Kit (SDR1002) **\$209**

Ricoh

- 12X, 10X Rewrite CD-RW, 8X DVD Read, 32X CD Read
- Complete Drive Kit (MP9120A) **\$319**

Cendyne

- 12X, 10X Rewrite CD-RW, 8X DVD Read, 32X CD Read
- Complete Drive Kit (CD1CD0059) **\$329**

FISC-CD (Ethernet IDE CD Controller)

• Connect up to 8 IDE CD ROMS to your Ethernet network without a computer. Auto switch, 8MB RAM buffer, user upgradable to 72MB. FISC CD offers the most complete protocol support in the industry: Windows NT, Netware, Unix, Web server, and Macintosh. Internet ready with built-in WWW server function. Mounts in a 5.25"HH drive bay. (FISC-CD) **\$679**



One of the Best Buys in the Industry.

8 Drive Auto Switching Network CD Tower

Pre-assembled 8 drive tower. Uses FISC-CD controller listed above. 40X Drive tower (MIT40X8N) \$1189 48X Drive tower (MIT48X8N) \$1219



DVD-RAM Drives Stores 5.2GB!

Toshiba

DVD utility software PC or Mac only \$59

- DVD-RAM 1X, 120ms • DVD-ROM 2x, 210 ms
- CD-ROM 16x, 140ms • 2MB buffer
- Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, DVD Video, Video CD, CD-ROM, CED Audio, CD-R and CD-RW disks.
- Bare SCSI drive (SDW1111) **\$395**

Hitachi

- DVD-RAM 1x, 210ms • DVD-ROM 2x, 165ms
- CD-ROM 24x, 140ms • 2MB buffer
- Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, CD-RW, and PD disks.
- SCSI bare drive (GF-2050) **\$529**
- IDE bare drive (GF2000) **\$489**

DVD RAM MEDIA

- 5.2 media (DVD-RAMDISK) 1-4/5-9/10+ **\$33/\$31/\$29**
- DVD utility software for PC (DVDSETPC-NT) for Mac (DVDSETPMAC) **\$59**

We really appreciate your business!

DVD Accessories

SIGMA DESIGNS HOLLYWOOD

- Best Selling PCI Based MPEG-2 decoder board (HOLLYWOOD) **\$55**

WAVELINK PC TO TV TRANSMITTER

View DVD movie titles on TV without the use of wires. 2.4GHz signal penetrates walls, floors, and ceilings. Operates up to 300 feet away. Sends and receives crisp color and stereo audio. Also works with many other video/audio sources. (PCTOTV) **\$99 or \$95 with any DVD drive purchase.**

We always have the latest DVD drives at Dirt Cheap Drives. Check us out on the web at dirtcheapdrives.com for the best deals in the industry.

TOWERS & NETWORK

Ethernet CD ROM Towers - Can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, OS/2, & UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks & NFS

	7 Drive 10baseT	7 Drive 10/100	13 Drive 10baseT	13 Drive 10/100
Plextor 40X	\$1259 #PLEX40X7N	\$1495 #PLEX40X7NT	\$2069 #PLEX40X13T	\$2379 #PLEX40X13E
NEC 40X	\$1109 #NEC3010X7N	\$1349 #NEC3010X7NT	\$1799 #NEC3010X13T	\$2119 #NEC3010X13E
Kenwood 52X	\$1599 #KEN415X7N	\$1849 #KEN415X7NT	\$2739 #KEN415X13T	\$2999 #KEN415X13E

Axis StorePoint CD

Ethernet SCSI
CD Controller

Connect your SCSI CD ROM drives directly to your Ethernet or Token Ring network without a computer. Stand alone has its own external enclosure. Tower module mounts in a tower case & occupies 1 5.25" HH drive bay.

Enclosure	Network	Max # Drives	Item #	Price
Stand-alone	Ethernet	7	AXISCDE-E	\$539
Stand-alone	TokenRing	7	AXISCDE-TR	\$729
Tower Module	Token Ring	7	AXISCDE/T-TR	\$639
Tower Module	Ethernet	7	AXISCDE100	\$519
Tower Module	Ethernet	14	AXISCDE100D	\$649
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	7	AXISCDE/DVD	\$769
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	14	AXISCDE/DVDD	\$949

Call Us • Call Us • Call Us • Call Us • Call Us • Call Us • Call Us • Call Us!!!

SCSI CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Int	Ext
32X	TEAC	CD532S	85	128K	\$72	\$132
40X	NEC	CDR3010	85	256K	\$69	\$129
40X	PLEXTOR	PX40TS (TRAY)	85	512K	\$89	\$149
52X	KENWOOD	UCR415	90	2MB	\$143	\$203

WIDE SCSI CD ROM

40X	Plextor	PX40TSUW	85	512K	\$99	\$189
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Pioneer 24x 6 Disk external CD changer (DRM6324X) **\$395**

Let us build a multi-drive tower for you! Call for details.

IDE CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Drive
40X	Teac	CD540E	85	128K	\$43
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With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk		
Hewlett Packard 12x8x32 IDE	(C4502A)	\$289
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk		
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Plextor 12x10x32 IDE	(PXW121032R)	\$275
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Plextor 12x10x32 SCSI		
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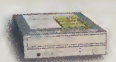
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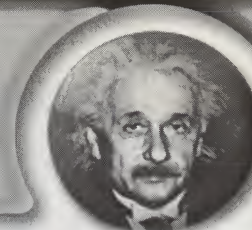
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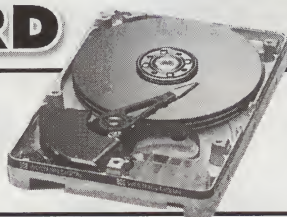
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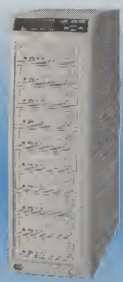
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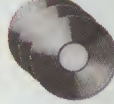
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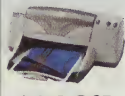


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64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	\$34
64MB	8X72	8NS	\$40
128MB	16X64	8NS	\$56
128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	\$57
128MB	16X72	8NS	\$69
128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS	\$72
256MB	32X64	8NS	\$119
256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	\$109
256MB	32X72	8NS	\$149
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MATG45016SDR	G450 16MB, SDR AGP OEM (DUAL)	\$82
MATG45016DDR	G450 16MB, DDR AGP OEM (DUAL)	\$96
MATG45032DDR	G450 32MB, DDR AGP OEM (DUAL)	\$134

ATI

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ATIX988A	EXPERT 98 AGP OEM VER 8MB	\$35
ATIX988P	EXPERT 98 PCI OEM VER 8MB	\$56
ATIRF16A	EXPERT RAGE AGP OEM VER 16MB	\$53
ATIX200032A	EXPERT 2000 AGP OEM VER 32MB	\$63
ATIX2KPR032A	EXPERT 2000PRO AGP OEM VER 32MB	\$81
ATIRF32ATV	RAGE FURY AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	\$92
ATIRFPR32ATV	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	\$103
ATIRFMAX64	RAGE FURY MAX AGP OEM 64MB W/TV	\$107
ATIAIW12832A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	\$149
ATIAIW12832P	ALL-IN-WONDER PCI OEM 32MB W/TV	\$167
ATIAIWPRO32A	ALL-IN-WONDER PRO AGP OEM 32MB	\$169

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IDE DRIVES

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD100EB	10200	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$95
WD150EB	15000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$103
WD153AA	15300	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$106
WD205AA	20500	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$109
WD200AB	20500	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$113
WD205BA	20500	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$113
WD200BB	20000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$113
WD153BA	15300	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$114
WD307AA	30700	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$114
WD300BB	30000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$137
WD450AA	45000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$142
WD400BB	40000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$166

IBM

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM307015	15000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$118
IBM307020	20000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$134
IBM307030	30000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$139
IBM305030	30000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$142
IBM305040	40000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$146
IBM307045	45000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$164
IBM307060	60000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$277
IBM307075	75000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$369

Maxtor

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX102-7200	10200	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$101
MAX153-7200	15300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$111
MAX204-5400	20400	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$112
MAX307-5400	30700	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$117
MAX204-7200	20400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$127
MAX409-5400	40900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$132
MAX307-7200	30700	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$137
MAX409-7200	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$172
MAX614-5400	61400	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$209
MAX819-5400	81900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$274

Quantum

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
QU320500LM	20500	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$127
QU330000LM	30000	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$147

Fujitsu

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
FUJ3102AT	10200	10MS/5400	512K	3.5/1" H	\$99
FUJ3102AH	10200	9.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$101
FUJ3204AT	20400	10MS/5400	512K	3.5/1" H	\$114
FUJ3204AH	20400	9.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$116

NOTEBOOK DRIVES

TOSHIBA

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
TO4313MAT	4300	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5/7.5MM	\$107
TO6014MAP	6000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5/7.5MM	\$116
TO1016GAP	10000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5/7.5MM	\$134
TO1214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5/7.5MM	\$167
TO2016GAP	20000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5/7.5MM	\$197

IBM

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM206000	6000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5/12.5MM	\$119
IBM210000	10000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5/9.5MM	\$137
IBM212000	12000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5/9.5MM	\$167
IBM220000	20000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5/9.5MM	\$197
IBM230000	30000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5/12.5MM	\$459

NETWORK CARDS

3Com

3C905BTXNM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT NO REMOTE WAKE PCI	\$41
3C905CTXM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT W/REMOTE WAKE PCI	\$43

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SCSI DRIVES

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD91FG	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$144
WDE9150-0050	9100	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$159
WDE18310-0040	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$232
WDE18310-0050	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$269

Seagate

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST39236LW	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$207
ST39216N	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$217
ST39216W	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$217
ST39236LWV	9200	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5/1" H	\$222
ST318416N	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$314
ST318416W	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$314
ST318436LW	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5/1" H	\$314
ST318436LWV	18400	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5/1" H	\$326
ST318404LW	18400	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5/FH	\$357
ST318451LW	18400	5.2MS/15,000	4096K	3.5/FH	\$469
ST336704LW	36700	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5/FH	\$592
ST336704LWV	36700	5.2MS/10,000	16000K	3.5/FH	\$604
ST173404LW	73400	5.6MS/10,000	4096K	3.5/FH	\$1084
ST173404LWV	73400	5.6MS/10,000	16000K	3.5/FH	\$1114
ST173404LCV	73400	5.6MS/10,000	16000K	3.5/FH	\$1129

REMOVABLES

MEGA

MODEL#	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
IOZP100IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM	\$52
IOZP250IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM	\$77
IOZP100USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB EXT ZIP	USB	\$117
IOZP250USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB EXT ZIP	USB	\$164
IOSCS12GBINT	REMOVABLE DRIVE	2GB INT JAZ	SCSI	\$262
IOSCS12GBEXT	REMOVABLE DRIVE	2GB EXT JAZ	SCSI	\$314

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TOSHIBA

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
TO48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	256K	\$52
TOSDM14020EM	12X-40X DVD	ATAPI	135/90MS	256K	\$90

MITSUMI

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
MIT48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	\$36
MIT48040EM	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	\$94
MIT4804KIT	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI RETAIL	135MS	2048K	\$139

YAMAHA

MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW8824EZKIT	8X/8X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	\$167
YACRW8824SZOEM	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$207
YACRW8824SZKIT	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$209
YACRW8824SXZ	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$269
YACRW2100EZKIT	16X/10X/40X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	\$269
YACRW2100SZKIT	16X/10X/40X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$309

SONY

MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
SY48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	\$40
SYCRX140ECHOEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$152
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$162
SYCRX145E/CH	10X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$189
SYCRX160E/CH	12X/8X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$247
SYCRX145S/CH	10X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	\$249

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3Com

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3C3594	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	\$34
3C2975	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NO VOICE	\$38
3C2974	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	\$36
3C2977	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	\$57
3C2976	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	\$61

CREATIVE

CLDI5655	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 VOICE	\$25
CLDI5660	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 NON WIN	\$25

MONITORS

ViewSonic

MODEL#	SIZE	RESOLUTION	PRICE
VIE55	15"	28DP 1280 X 1024	\$152
VIM50	15"	27DP 1280 X 1024	\$159
VIG653	15"	28DP 1280 X 1024	\$184
VIGA655	15"	27DP 1280 X 1024	\$204
VIE70	17"	27DP 1280 X 1024	\$209
VIE771	17"	27DP 1280 X 1024	\$217
VIE773	17"	25DP 1280 X 1024	\$236
VIGS773	17"	27DP 1280 X 1024	\$257
VIG773	17"	26DP 1280 X 1024	\$269
VIPS775	17"	25DP 1600 X 1280	\$309
VIE790	19"	26DP 1600 X 1200	\$329
VIGA771	17"	27DP 1280 X 1024	\$369
VIG90M	19"	26DP 1600 X 1200	\$399
VIPF790	19"	25DP 1600 X 1280	\$449
VIPS790	19"	25DP 1600 X 1280	\$484
VIG810	21"	25DP 1600 X 1280	\$709
VIP810	21"	25DP 1600 X 1200	\$779
VIGS815	21"	25DP 1920 X 1440	\$799
VIP220F	22"	25DP 1600 X 1200	\$809
VIP817	21"	25DP 2048 X 1536	\$1439
VIVG151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE	1024 X 768	\$959
VIVP150M	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE	1024 X 768	\$1029
VIVP151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE	1280 X 1024	\$1399
VIVG181	LCD MONITOR 18.1" VIEWABLE	1280 X 1024	\$2549

RELYSIS

RETE555	15" 28DP 1280 X 1024	\$122
RETE770	17" 28DP 1280 X 1024	\$172
RETE786T	17" 28DP 1280 X 1024	\$177
RETE786H	17" 25DP 1600 X 1200	\$199
RETE988	19" 26DP 1600 X 1200	\$269

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essential guide



How To Shop Safe

1 make your connection secure

Before you submit any sensitive or private information about yourself—especially your credit-card number—make sure that the data will be encrypted and transmitted over a secure connection. Both your browser and the Web site's server should support industry standards, such as Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) or Secure Sockets Layer (SSL).

2 protect your passwords

Don't create a password based on information that can be easily discovered, such as your birth date, telephone number, or Social Security number. Instead, use a unique combination of at least five letters, numbers, or symbols.

3 protect your privacy

Take a moment to read the company's privacy policy, which should detail what information the site collects and how it will be used.

Limit your exposure by filling out online forms carefully. Don't volunteer optional information. Instead, provide only the information required to complete a transaction.

Never divulge information—such as your mother's maiden name—that can be used to gain unauthorized access to your accounts.

Various free and fee-based Web services will let you surf and shop anonymously. For example, Anonymizer (www.anonymizer.com) or Privada (www.privada.net) will let you visit Web sites without revealing your name or e-mail address.

4 use an insured payment method

Paying for your online purchases with a credit or charge card isn't just convenient—it's smart. Your transaction is protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act, which gives you the right to dispute charges and to withhold payment until the dispute is settled. In addition, if your credit or charge card is used fraudulently, you are normally liable for only \$50 of the total amount.

Cash payments are increasingly common on the Internet, thanks to online auction sites. For large sums, you should use a fee-based escrow service, such as i-Escrow (www.iescrow.com) or Tradesafe (www.tradesafe.com).

5 check references

Look for the Better Business Bureau Online Reliability Seal (www.bbbonline.org), which guarantees that a company has been in business for a minimum of one year, has become a member of a local Better Business Bureau, and agrees to arbitration in case of a dispute.

BizRate (www.bizrate.com) conducts customer surveys and publishes ratings for categories such as quality of merchandise, quality of customer service, and timeliness of shipping.

Auction sites such as eBay (www.ebay.com) provide a feedback section, where purchasers can comment on the reliability of individual sellers.

6 check the terms of the sale

Reputable online retailers display the terms and conditions of the sale, including warranties on the merchandise, limitations of liability, and return and refund policies. Some sites dis-

play this information prominently on a "click-wrap" screen that requires you to accept the terms before completing the purchase. Other sites provide links to the information.

7 include taxes and shipping

Scrutinize the shipping and handling fees tacked onto your bill. Per-item fees and expedited shipping methods can bloat the total purchase price. Look for sites that offer low-cost shipping methods or that deliver free of charge when you place a large order. Charging sales tax is required by law in many states.

8 double-check order forms

Before you finalize a purchase, proof-read your order form. Typos, such as typing "22" instead of "2," can be costly mistakes. If your shipping address differs from your billing address, there is no way for the vendor to confirm its accuracy, so double-check it yourself. You should also make sure that the pricing information you see onscreen is absolutely current and not an old price from a page that was cached on your system during a previous visit.

9 estimate the delivery date

The seller should inform you of an approximate delivery date. Federal Trade Commission rules state that if the seller does not specify a time period in which the product will be shipped, the merchant must either ship the product within 30 days, or notify you of the delay and offer to cancel the order and refund your money.

10 complain about problems

If you do experience a problem with an online purchase, notify the company immediately. Check the Web site for a toll-free phone number, an e-mail address, or links to customer service. If the company itself does not resolve the problem, contact the Better Business Bureau (www.bbbonline.org), the Federal Trade Commission at

www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm, or your state attorney general's office (www.naag.org).

save time & money

1 Charge It

Don't pay by check: Always use a credit card or e-cash whenever you buy online.

2 Look for Seals

Look for seals of approval—from Yahoo, TRUSTe, and the Better Business Bureau. These ensure that the company is legitimate and that your personal information will be protected.

3 Get Help

When you have questions, use online customer-service support features, including online chat and voice-over-IP functions, as well as toll-free numbers.

4 Buy Big

Consider buying smaller items such as printer toner cartridges, diskettes, Zip disks, and cables in volume to save money.

5 Save and Print

Save a copy of your online order receipt by saving the Web page locally. For extra security, print it out.

6 Clip and Save

Almost all vendors offer coupons and rebates, but few consumers bother to find them.

7 Track Your Delivery

Pay attention to shipping information and options to learn when your order is supposed to arrive. If at all possible, get a tracking number.

8 Buy Used

Check closeout or refurbished product sections. These often include amazing bargains. Just make sure they include some sort of warranty.

9 Search Smart

Use bots, or automated search engines, to compare prices among resellers. But be aware of possible bias—some bots are hosted by sites that also sell products.

10 Be Specific

If you know the name and model number, enter them for much faster searching.

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- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 128 3D® Video
- Internal V.90 56K Capable⁶ FaxModem
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows[®] Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty²
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

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- Upgrade from DVD to Modular 8X Max CD-RW, add \$199

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NEW—Multimedia Mobile Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 700MHz
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- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10GB⁵ Ultra ATA HD ■ 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- Modular 8X Max CD-RW
- NEW 4X AGP 32MB ATI Rage Mobility™-M4 3D® Video
- Internal V.90 56K Capable⁶ FaxModem
- 59Whr Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- harman/kardon Audio ■ MS® Works Suite 2001
- MS® Windows[®] Me ■ 3-Yr Ltd Warranty²
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access¹⁰ Included

\$2649  **E-VALUE CODE**
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Includes Windows Millennium Edition — the home version of the world's favorite software.

Dell recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business.

Phone Hours: M-F 7a-9p ■ Sat 10a-6p ■ Sun 12p-5p CT ■ In Canada, call 800-232-6306 ■ In Mexico, call 001-877-269-3379 ■ GSA Contract #GS-35F-4076D

¹⁰Telephone access (call your phone co. for details) and other surcharges for access may apply. Must register within 30 days of receiving computer and accept DellNet/MSN Terms of Service. You agree to be billed monthly fees after the initial service period. You may cancel service at any time. Offer valid for new customers only in U.S. households and must be over 18 years old with major credit card. Limited time offer.

Prices, specifications, and availability may change without notice. Taxes and shipping charges extra, and vary. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. U.S. only. ⁴For a copy of our Guarantees or Limited Warranties, write Dell USA L.P., Attn: Warranties, One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682. ⁵At-Home or On-Site service provided via third-party contract with customer. Technician will be dispatched, if necessary, following phone-based troubleshooting. To receive Next-Business-Day service, Dell must notify the service provider before 5 pm (customer's time). Availability varies. Other conditions apply. ⁶For hard drives, GB means 1 billion bytes; accessible capacity varies with operating environment. ⁷Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less (about 30Kbps) and vary by modem manufacturer and line conditions. Analog phone line and compatible server required. ⁸Business leasing arranged by Dell Financial Services L.P., an independent entity, to qualified customers. Lease payments based on a 48-month FMV purchase option lease and do not include taxes, fees and shipping charges. Subject to credit approval and availability. Lease terms and pricing subject to change without notice. Dell, the stylized E logo, and E-Value are trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside logo, and Pentium are registered trademarks, and Celeron is a trademark of Intel Corporation. MS, Microsoft, MSN, BackOffice, Windows NT, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. 3Com is a registered trademark and Fast EtherLink is a trademark of 3Com Corporation. Trinitron is a registered trademark of Sony Corporation. ©2001 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.



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- 10GB⁵ Ultra ATA HD (up to 20GB⁵)
- 15" (13.8" vis) E551 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics ■ 48X Max CD-ROM
- SoundBlaster 64V Integrated Sound
- harman/kardon® Speakers
- Integrated Intel® 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® Me & MS® Works Suite 2001 & Norton® AntiVirus™
- 3-Yr Ltd Warranty² ■ 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴

\$699  **E-VALUE CODE**
05942-590106

BUSINESS LEASE: \$19/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴ add \$99

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Affordable Business Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
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- 20GB⁵ Ultra ATA/100 HD
- 17" (16.0" vis) E770 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics ■ 48X Max CD-ROM
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- 3Com® PCI 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® Me & MS® Works Suite 2001 & Norton® AntiVirus™
- 3-Yr Ltd Warranty² ■ 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴

\$899  **E-VALUE CODE**
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$25/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

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NEW—Latest and Greatest Managed PC

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
- 64MB PC133 SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 10GB⁵ (7200 RPM) ATA/100 HD (up to 40GB⁵)
- 15" (13.8" vis) E551 Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM ■ Integrated AC97 Audio
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- NEW OptiFrame™ Small Desktop
- Tool-less Chassis in Midnight Gray
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$28/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

DELL™ BUSINESS NOTEBOOKS:

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Design and Affordability Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM ■ 5GB⁵ Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM
- 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 3D® Video, 2X AGP
- Internal 56K Capable⁸ Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴

\$1099  **E-VALUE CODE**
05942-890110

BUSINESS LEASE: \$31/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴ add \$149
- Upgrade to CompleteCare™ Service²⁰ from 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴ add \$169

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000

NEW—Style, Freedom, Simplicity Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 14.1" XGA Display
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- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM
- 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 128 3D® Video, 2X AGP
- Smart Li-Ion Battery
- MS® Office 2000 Small Business
- MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴

\$1499  **E-VALUE CODE**
05942-890114

BUSINESS LEASE: \$41/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

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- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴ add \$149

DELL™ LATITUDE™ CPt

Network-Optimized Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 6GB⁵ Ultra ATA HD
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- Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Dual Pointing – Touchpad and Pointing Stick
- Internal 56K Capable⁸ SoftModem
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴

\$1399  **E-VALUE CODE**
05942-790113

BUSINESS LEASE: \$39/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

- Upgrade to 14.1" Active Matrix Display, add \$250

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DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 300

NEW—Basic Box at Our Lowest Price

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz (up to 850MHz)
- Dual Processor Capable
- 64MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 1GB)
- 10GB⁵ (7200 RPM) IDE HD (up to 40GB⁵)
- Up to 120GB Internal Storage Capacity
- Intel® Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- 48X Max IDE CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴; Years 2 & 3 Parts & Labor
- 7x24 Phone Tech Support

\$999  **E-VALUE CODE**
05942-290109

BUSINESS LEASE: \$28/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

- 2nd 10GB⁵ (7200 RPM) IDE HD, add \$109
- 2nd Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz, add \$499

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 1400

NEW—Small Business Value Solution

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz (up to 1GHz)
- Dual Processor/RAID Capable
- 128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 9GB⁵ (7200 RPM) Ultra3 (Ultra 160) SCSI HD (up to 36GB⁵ 10K RPM)
- Up to 144GB Internal Storage Capacity
- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers
- 48X Max IDE CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴
- 7x24 Phone Tech Support

\$1349  **E-VALUE CODE**
05942-290113

BUSINESS LEASE: \$37/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

- 2nd 9GB⁵ (7200 RPM) Ultra3 SCSI HD, add \$219
- Small Business Bundle Upgrade, add \$1879

DELL™ PRECISION™ 220

Advanced Performance Workstation

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz (up to 1GHz)
- Dual Processor/RAID Capable
- 64MB RDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 10GB⁵ (7200 RPM) EIDE HD (up to 73.4GB⁵ 10K RPM SCSI)
- NEW NVIDIA TNT2 Pro 16MB 4X AGP Graphics Card
- Integrated NIC & Sound ■ 48X Max CD-ROM
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service⁴
- 7x24 Dedicated Workstation Phone Tech Support

\$1299  **E-VALUE CODE**
05942-490112

BUSINESS LEASE: \$36/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

- Monitor Sold as an Upgrade



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\$1399  **E-VALUE CODE**
05941-590113a

BUSINESS LEASE: \$39/MO., 48 MOS.¹¹

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